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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you intend to watch this year's Liberation Day parade?

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INSIDE

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A $2.2 million expedition is hoping to finally solve one of America's most enduring mysteries.

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FOCUS

Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills served two deployments without major injury. Then everything changed.

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LIFE & STYLE

"The Amazing Spider-Man" pulls in $7.5 million from its debut screenings Tuesday.

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'A celebration of the gift of freedom'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It was a bright and sunny day as thousands of community members came together to take part in yesterday's 67th Liberation Day festivities, with calls from key leaders and organizers to remember the war veterans, active duty military members, and other heroes whose services and sacrifices made possible the freedom that the CNMI and the rest of the nation enjoy today.

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A CAB Dancers member waves to the crowd during yesterday's Liberation Day parade on Beach Road. The CAB Dancers float won third place in the float competition. CLARISSA V. DAVID

UFO entry wins LibDay float competition

The United Filipino Organization float at the 2012 Liberation Day Parade highlights the rich culture of the Philippines. CLARISSA V. DAVID

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization topped the float competition at the 2012 Liberation Day Parade, with an entry highlighting the vast and rich culture of the Philippines together with the CNMI.

With a man-made waterfall as its most notable feature, UFO's float garnered 286 points to win $1,500, besting four other entries exhibited at yesterday's parade that drew thousands of spectators.

The winning entry took some five days to create by about 50 volunteers who all worked on the design featuring giant rocks made out of paper maché and decorated with the island's flora and fauna.

Aboard the float were UFO members clad

See UFO on Page 4

ADMIN GOES AFTER $50M TAX DEBT

Dynasty settles tax debt; Taiwan firm eyes buying hotel-casino

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and the Department of Finance wrapped up their negotiations to settle Dynasty's over $30 million tax debt at a time when Dynasty is also negotiating with Taiwan-based Howarm Construction Co. Ltd., which wants to buy the only operating hotel-casino in the CNMI, officials said yesterday.

Tinian Dynasty owner Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. has been negotiating for quite some time now with Howarm, a Taiwan-based company engaged in construction, leas-

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Guidelines out on travel for CW holders with B visas

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issued additional guidance on travel for Commonwealth-only worker permit holders, specifically those that have nonimmigrant B1 or B2 visitor visas.

A CW status is a "CNMI-only" nonimmigrant status. It does not authorize entry to Guam or to any other part of the United States.

Travel or attempted travel from the CNMI to another part of the United States without the appropriate visa—such as B visa—or other authorization is a violation of CW status.

CW permit holders with B1 (business) visa or B2 (tourist) visa would still

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Hospital OT costs rising as nurse staffing decreases. PAGE 3
Manta Band invited to perform at Olympic Park. PAGE 5

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Local

Search to find Earhart plane wreckage begins in HI

By OSKAR GARCIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—A $2.2 million expedition is hoping to finally solve one of America's most enduring mysteries: What exactly happened to famed aviator Amelia Earhart when she went missing over the South Pacific 75 years ago?

A group of scientists, historians and salvagers think they have a good idea, and are trekking from Honolulu to a remote island in the Pacific nation of Kiribati starting Tuesday in hopes of finding wreckage of Earhart's Lockheed Electra plane in nearby waters.

Their working theory is that Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan landed on a reef near the Kiribati atoll of Nikumaroro, then survived a short time.

"Everything has pointed to the airplane having gone over the edge of that reef in a particular spot and the wreckage ought to be right down there," said Ric Gillespie, the founder and executive director of The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, the group leading the search.

"We're going to search where it—in quotes—should be," he said. "And maybe it's there, maybe it's not. And there's no way to know unless you go and look."

AP

In a 1937 file photo aviator Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, pose in front of their twin-engine Lockheed Electra in Los Angeles prior to their historic flight in which Earhart was attempting to become first female pilot to circle the globe.

Previous visits to the island have recovered artifacts that could have belonged to Earhart and Noonan, and experts say an October 1937 photo of the shoreline of the island could include a blurry image of the strut and wheel of a Lockheed Electra landing gear.

"That was the icing on the cake," said Gillespie, who said the picture added to 24 years of evidence gathering used to form the group's working theory.

The photo was enough for the U.S. State Department to hold an event to give encouragement to the privately funded expedition, and enough for the Kiribati government to sign a contract with the group to work together if anything is found, Gillespie said.

But the hunt using nearly 30,000 pounds of specialized underwater equipment is just a sophisticated way to try to prove a hunch that could be flat wrong, or not provable if the plane simply floated too far or broke up into tiny, undetectable pieces.

A separate group working under a different theory plans its third voyage later this year near Howland Island.

Earhart and Noonan were flying from New Guinea to Howland Island when they went missing July 2, 1937, during Earhart's bid to become the first woman to circumnavigate the globe.

Gillespie's group raised enough funds to embark on the nearly monthlong voyage through individual and corporate donors, including funds from Discovery, which plans to document the trip and air it on cable TV in August, and $750,000 worth of free shipping from FedEx of the underwater science gear, Gillespie said.

Still, the trip is nearly a half-million dollars short, said Patricia Webb, a retired Air Force colonel who helped raise funds for the trip.

If the voyage succeeds, it could add to Earhart's legacy and solve a mystery that's captured national attention since her disappearance, she said.

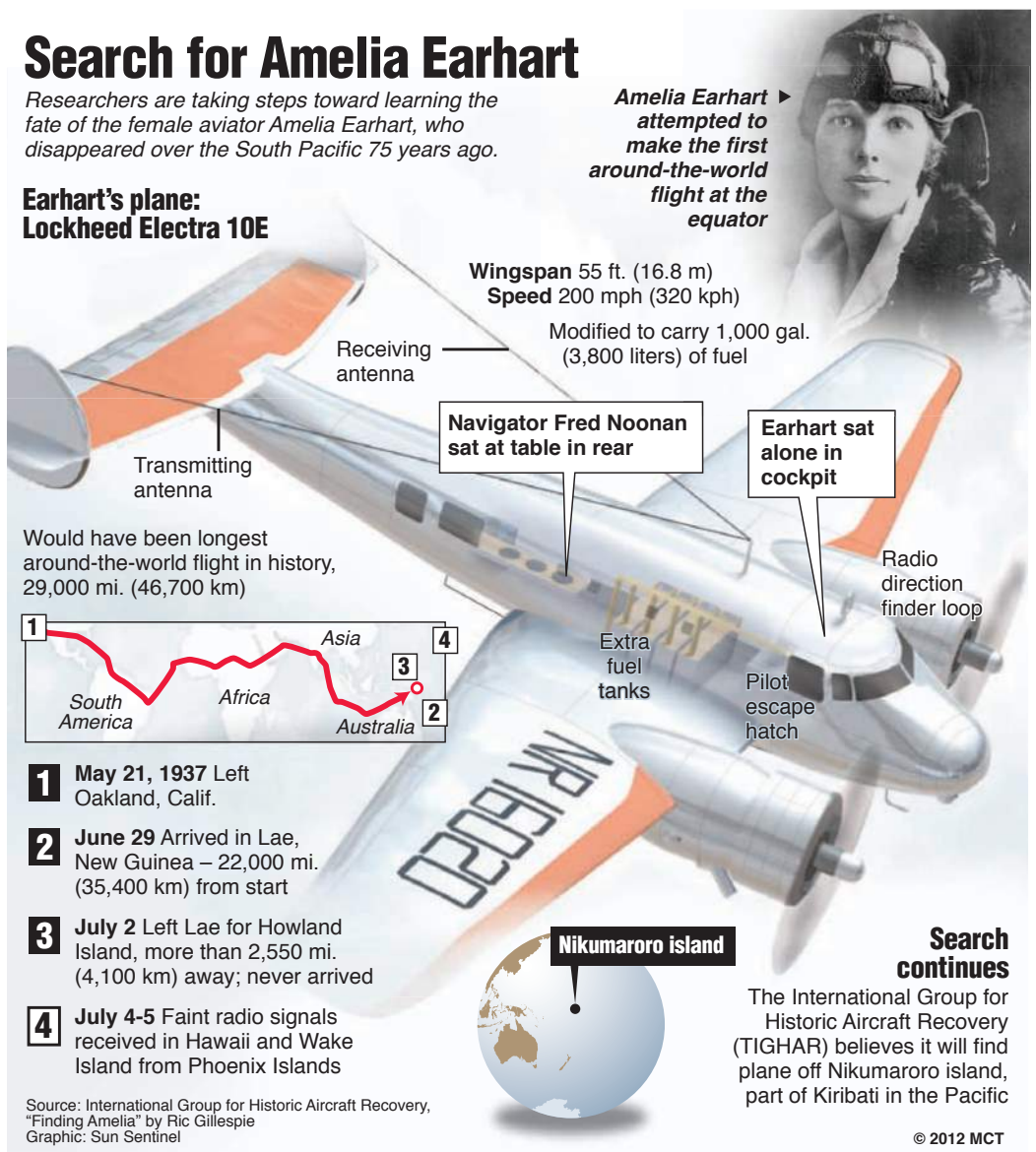
"If they find something, that adds a lot of credibility to her, to her navigator Fred Noonan, and to their survival skills because of the things that have been found so far on Nikumaroro," she said.

The trip is planned to last roughly 26 days, including 10 days of searching and 16 days traveling between Honolulu and the atoll. The voyagers will use a ship owned by the University of Hawaii, an oceanographic research vessel named Kaimikai-O-Kanaloa, which translates into English, "The Searcher of the Seas of the God Kanaloa."

Gillespie said the group has as good of a chance as it can expect given its equipment, including an unmanned vehicle that looks like a torpedo used for mapping terrain on the ocean floor and a tethered remote-operated vehicle that will be used to take pictures and look at objects identified in the water.

And Earhart's standing as an American icon—especially to young women—and fascination in her story means it's important to solve the mystery, he said.

"That kind of inspiration matters," Gillespie said. "We want to know what happened to her."


Search for Amelia Earhart
Researchers are taking steps toward learning the fate of the female aviator Amelia Earhart, who disappeared over the South Pacific 75 years ago.
Amelia Earhart attempted to make the first around-the-world flight at the equator
Earhart's plane: Lockheed Electra 10E
Wingspan 55 ft. (16.8 m)
Speed 200 mph (320 kph)
Modified to carry 1,000 gal. (3,800 liters) of fuel
Receiving antenna
Transmitting antenna
Navigator Fred Noonan sat at table in rear
Earhart sat alone in cockpit
Radio direction finder loop
Extra fuel tanks
Pilot escape hatch
Would have been longest around-the-world flight in history, 29,000 mi. (46,700 km)
Asia
South America
Africa
Australia
1 May 21, 1937 Left Oakland, Calif.
2 June 29 Arrived in Lae, New Guinea – 22,000 mi. (35,400 km) from start
3 July 2 Left Lae for Howland Island, more than 2,550 mi. (4,100 km) away; never arrived
4 July 4-5 Faint radio signals received in Hawaii and Wake Island from Phoenix Islands
Nikumaroro island
Search continues
The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) believes it will find plane off Nikumaroro island, part of Kiribati in the Pacific
Source: International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, "Finding Amelia" by Ric Gillespie
Graphic: Sun Sentinel
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Hospital OT costs rising as nurse staffing decreases

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attrition in the ranks of nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center has resulted in the remaining nurses having to work longer hours, which in turn has resulted in an increase in overtime costs at the islands' lone public hospital.

CHC nursing director Leticia Reyes confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that 28 nurses have either resigned or retired in the past six months, leaving them with only 139 nurses, down from 167 in December 2011.

Because of this, Reyes said they have no choice but to ask remaining nurses to work longer so as not to hamper the delivery of healthcare services.

As a result, overtime costs at the department alone now average 800 hours biweekly.

From the standard 5:1 patients-to-nurse ratio, CHC oftentimes exceeds the standard by up to seven patients per nurse per shift due to the lack of manpower.

When asked if this ratio is considered "within federal standard," Reyes explained that as long as a nurse starts a shift with up to five patients, any additional patient that will come in under the shift is considered acceptable.

Reyes said that CHC plans to recruit more nurses in two batches. Their goal is to first fill the 24 nursing slots for those who resigned; the other batch is for the last four nurses who quit.

Reyes, together with the corporation's human resource office, recently interviewed more than 24 applicants—majority of whom are nonresident nurses on island.

The new immigration system is, however, delaying the hiring process. Reyes cited as an example the need to wait for the CW permit before an individual can actually start working for their employer.

According to Reyes, all applicants are qualified and have passed the National Council Licensure Examination or NCLEX and are currently working in private clinics and health agencies on island.

"I am hopeful that by end of this month or early August, we can fill those positions," she said.

2 male juveniles injured in Beach Road car collision

Two male juveniles were injured during a collision of two vehicles along Beach Road in Garapan Tuesday night.

The two boys suffered minor lacerations and were taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The vehicles—a Jeep and a Toyota Tacoma—both had extensive damage to the front bumpers.

Saipan Tribune learned from police and witnesses that the two injured boys were in the bed of the Toyota Tacoma being driven by Wilma Amog.

One of the boys was Amog's 14-year-old son. Sitting on the front passenger seat was her 6-year-old daughter.

The Jeep was being driven by Jack Hudak, owner of Thai House Restaurant.

The Tacoma was heading south when the Jeep being driven by Hudak suddenly encroached on the opposite lane and collided head on with the Tacoma.

Hudak said he was changing his vehicle's radio station when the accident happened.

Hudak had just come from the former Price Costco and was on his way home when the accident happened around 7:50pm in front of a building previously occupied by St. Michael's Ambulance.

When asked if he was intoxicated, the businessman said he has never drunk alcoholic beverages since 1990 and that he is, in fact, a regular speaker at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the scene, police were still doing their investigation.

The road was wet but it was not raining when the collision occurred. The shoulder and the side portion of the northbound lane was flooded. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Reserve account for Medicaid matching funds under review

Officials of the CNMI Medicaid Office disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that a proposal that aims to address the funding requirements for the program is now being reviewed by the Fitial administration's legal counsel.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's special adviser on the Medicaid program, Esther Muña, and administrator Helen Sablan said they have recommended the creation of a separate account that will be reserved strictly for Medicaid matching funds so it could consistently pay for the program's obligations and other expenses.

Saipan Tribune learned that the plan is to introduce legislation that would create a reserve account for specific taxes that will be solely intended for Medicaid matching requirements.

For example, the Legislature can increase certain taxes such as for tobacco and a portion of that tax will go directly to the reserved account for the Medicaid program.

At present, all appropriations and collections of the government go directly to the general fund and, until it has funds, that's the only time the government can pay out obligations, such as that for Medicaid.

Currently, the CNMI pays 45 percent of the program's operations, while the federal side is 55 percent.

Sablan and Muna said that once review of the proposal is completed, the administration will push for the creation of a bill that they hope would become law.

The two could not immediately say how soon this will happen or when legislation may be crafted and introduced.

Medicaid is a health program for people and families with low incomes and resources. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

IN TRAFFIC STOP CASE

Mafnas takes witness stand

Department of Corrections Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas took the witness stand on Tuesday in the Superior Court to explain the circumstances behind a traffic stop he made that is now being questioned by the Office of Public Defender.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho heard the public defender's motion to suppress evidence in the traffic case against Waitree Sawikan.

After listening to Mafnas' testimony and arguments of counsels, Camacho placed the matter under advisement. Camacho said he will issue a written decision in the next few days.

Assistant attorney general Chemere K. McField called to the witness stand Mafnas, who was a commissioner of the Department of Public Safety when he made the traffic stop on Sawikan on Sept. 24, 2011.

Mafnas basically explained the circumstances that prompted him to stop Sawikan who was driving a moped on Beach Road.

Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke, counsel for Sawikan, did not call any witness.

Hardwicke questioned the constitutionality of the traffic stop on Sawikan made by a person he only described as a "white haired male person." McField identified the person as Mafnas.

Hardwicke asked the court to exclude any and all evidence gathered as a result of the "unlawful traffic stop."

Hardwicke said the was traffic stop was made in violation of Sawikan's federal and constitutional right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures.

Hardwicke said his client was never informed who this "white haired person wearing a police outfit" was because the person never identified himself.

"Additionally, Mr. Sawikan was never informed by this unknown person why he was forced to pull over in the first place," Hardwicke said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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	Silver Plus Plan	$ 297.00	$ 354.00

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DYNASTY

From Page 1

ing and distribution of residential and commercial buildings.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and other CNMI officials confirmed negotiations between Dynasty and Howarm but were quick to point out that no final decision has been made.

"We welcome new investors to Tinian that have bigger capital, will bring cash infusion, and attract high rollers. Howarm is a major company in Taiwan and they have a good reputation," he said.

Dela Cruz said it has always been his administration's request that any takeover of the hotel-casino would include retaining the current local and foreign workers that are already with Dynasty and that their back wages are paid.

He said Tinian is thankful for Dynasty's commitment to hire locally, citing ongoing training for certain positions at the casino.

"As to the tax [debt] settlement, I believe Dynasty has been doing its best to be more attractive to potential investors and that includes having clean [financial] books. Dynasty has been negotiating with the CNMI government on their tax obligations for quite sometime now," Dela Cruz said.

The Tinian mayor said the amount negotiated will be paid to the central government and not the Tinian municipal government. He said Dynasty does not currently owe the municipal government.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said he's also been aware of the tax debt settlement deal between Dynasty and Finance, but he's not aware of the amount being negotiated.

According to *Saipan Tribune*'s government sources, Dynasty and Finance agreed that Dynasty will be paying the government $6.1 million in back taxes, down from the original $30 million-plus, including interests.

The same sources said yesterday that assistant attorney general Jim Stump negotiated on behalf of Finance.

While Stump could not be reached for comment, press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the Fitial administration is continuing emphasis on tax collection but Commonwealth law strictly prohibits disclosure of individual tax information.

"Under the Fitial/Inos administration, the Commonwealth has significantly increased tax enforcement. This invigorated tax enforcement is ongoing and to date has brought in over $50 million of tax revenues that were due but uncollected. Because of current financial constraints of the government, additional emphasis has been placed on tax and revenue collection and, on a weekly basis, additional tax enforcement proceedings are initiated," Demapan said.

Tinian Dynasty is just one of dozens of businesses and individual taxpayers that owe the CNM government significant tax obligations. One other CNMI businessman with over $5 million in back taxes and one with over $1 million in back taxes are also negotiating with Finance, sources said.

UFO

From Page 1

in traditional outfits of various ethnic groups from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao—the three major island groups in the Philippines—along with some children who wore island dance costumes.

Bong Malasarte, president of the umbrella organization for some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI, said their members had to come in as early as 6am yesterday to work on the float for some minor damage caused by the previous night's heavy rain.

"We really prayed hard that our float won't get destroyed. And it wasn't. God is good," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte explained that the waterfall on the float wasn't just for decoration. Water, he said, is universal and can bind different cultures and peoples together.

He acknowledged Hawaiian Rock management led by general manager Felipe Fejeran for lending the truck used for the float, and Joel Vallega, Ernie Molina, and Patrick for their help in embellishing the float design.

"We are very happy about placing first in the float competition and we offer our victory to the entire Filipino community. Our success was made possible because we all worked together to achieve our goal. All our efforts have paid off and we thank you for your support," he added.

Coming in second place is the Marianas High School Lancheros, which garnered 273 points and won $1,000 for their float that drew attention to local produce. Winning third place is the CAB Dancers, which received 254 points and won $500.

The other competing teams were Tun Genio A. Borja & Family and The Return of Chinaman.

Donald Crisostomo, Parade Committee chair, said the competing floats were evaluated by three judges from the government and private sector. He declined to identify them.

"There were lots of hard work and dedication that the five groups put on their floats and I'm very proud of all of them," he said.

CELEBRATION

From Page 1

Wednesday's celebration kicked off at exactly 10am, when the Liberation Day Parade made its way toward the festival grounds at the Garapan Fishing Base from its starting point at National Office Supply.

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores and 2012 Liberation Day Committee chair Jonas Barcinas were on foot to lead several dignitaries, government agencies, ethnic and non-profit organizations that joined the parade.

David Mangarero Sablan, who was chosen as this year's grand marshal, looked debonair in his suit as he waved to the crowd aboard a silver, convertible Mustang. A survivor of the Battle of Saipan, Sablan is a well-known entrepreneur and community advocate and has recently received the Rotarian of the Year award.

Following the grand marshal was the lovely 2011 Liberation Queen Joni Francesca C. Castro, who was with her two young assistants on another convertible Mustang.

The cavalcade of participants moved along with much fanfare as other groups came into view: the thunderous motorcycles of the Matua Riders and Guam Hogs; the Color Guards and JROTC teams of public high schools; U.S. Navy; Commonwealth Utilities Corp.; CNMI Boy Scouts; *Man'amko* King & Queen; Family Violence Task Force, including the Ayuda Network, Karidat, and the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence; Division of Youth Services; Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws group; Public Health; Saipan Awaodori Team; Palau Community Association Youth; Center for Living Independently in the CNMI; Joeten-Kiyu Public Library; Falun Dafa; Foremost; Coca-Cola; Northern Mariana Islands Football Association; and Disturbed Rides.

The groups were followed by eight floats, five of which competed in the float contest. ***(See related story)***. They were the Eugene A. Borja (Lancheros) of As Teo; Marianas High School Lancheros led by agriculturist Isidoro T. Cabrera; CAB Cultural Dancers; United Filipino Organization joined by the Saipan Music & Dance Studio; Return of Chinaman; Homeland Security and Customs Service units and vehicles; KKMP together with the Domatsuri Japanese group and the Japanese Society of Saipan; the Korean community composed of visiting dance groups Sobaek Dance Theatre, Song Mi Sook Dance Company, Lee Jae Jung Dance Company, Sang Myung University Nam Jin Hee Modern Dance Company, Ryu Dance Company, BJ Dance Company, Woo Suk University Dance Company, and Ye Hwa, Dance Company; and the 2012 Liberation Queen and Royal Court.

Each group was given several minutes to perform for the spectators by the JP Center where KSPN News did its live coverage of the event, and in front of the makeshift stage by the Kristo Rai Church where dignitaries where seated.

Parade committee chair Donald Crisostomo said that except for the big gap because of the performances of the large contingent from Korea, they did not have any issues during the event. He thanked all participants for paying attention to instructions to facilitate traffic flow.

The crowd was evidently smaller this year, with fewer tents set up along Beach Road and less viewers who didn't have to scramble for a better vantage point.

The spectacle proceeded to the festival grounds, where the program proper hosted by LJ Castro took place.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in his remarks, said that while the rest of the nation celebrates its Independence Day, the island community gathers each year to celebrate the gift of freedom and the "blood, sweat, and tears" sacrificed by many to win the battle for Saipan

He said that the theme "Enlightening our Culture, Courage, Freedom & Unity" enjoins the public to recall the importance of fostering a prosperous future by learning from the past.

"As citizens of this nation, we remain ever so proud of our heritage, indebted for our liberty, and certain of our future. Our nation and our Commonwealth remain proud to continue carrying the torch of freedom. We continue to place our trust in the protections of divine providence. We pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to the defense of freedom," said Fitial.

Capt. Richard A. Rainer Jr. of the U.S. Navy, for his part, assured the public of the Navy's commitment to defend freedom and democracy by protecting the nation and its oceans.

"We are proud to contribute to the local economy and are proud to serve as a 'global force for good' in the finest Navy in the world," he added.

Rainer also recognized war veteran Marven Avilla, who was on stage among the dignitaries, and the family and friends of the late Derry D. Noisom, who recently passed away. He said the two are examples of military personnel who deserve credit for their service and sacrifice.

The 2012 Liberation Queen, Lydee Rose Sablan Pangelinan, during her address, shared how honored she is for her title. She related her experience, which she described as akin to "a car running on an empty tank."

Pangelinan said that during her journey leading to her crown, she was with an "amazing" group of girls who were equally dedicated, motivated, and hardworking. She recognized her family and friends, her support group adviser, and sponsors for their contribution to her success.

In an interview, Mayor Flores said he is elated with the success of this year's parade. "It's the community that enjoyed our festivities the most."

Flores and chair Barcinas agreed that the drug and alcohol-free rule for the Liberation festivities was effective. According to Barcinas, this would help raise awareness in the community and find solutions to diseases that have become a huge concern for many residents.

The celebration was also broadcast live through KKMP radio station.

GUIDELINES

From Page 1

need USCIS approval in advance of the travel (or parole), which has been the practice since the federal government took over CNMI immigration.

But in late June, USCIS amended its CNMI transitional worker classification "questions and answers" to provide further guidance on CW permit holders' travel.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said last night that UWM encourages its members to check the USCIS website for the latest information on the CW permit or status, as well as issues such as travel.

Syed said there may be other questions that other foreign workers in the CNMI have, and they will continue to present these questions to USCIS.

USCIS said travel of an alien in CW status directly to Guam and other U.S. destinations is authorized under the following conditions:

1. The alien is traveling to the U.S. destination and back to the CNMI on a U.S. itinerary only (i.e., to Guam only, or to another U.S. destination only through Guam, and return, without passing through any foreign airport); and

2. The alien needs to travel to another part of the United States for a valid business or personal reason, such as a necessary business meeting, professional training, or medical treatment, and the travel plans are consistent with the length of stay and activities that would be authorized for "B" nonimmigrant visitors, including visitors under a visa waiver program as appropriate; and

3. The alien has received USCIS approval in advance of the travel.

The procedure for how to receive USCIS approval in advance of the travel depends upon the CW alien's nationality and/or visa.

If the alien has a valid "B" nonimmigrant visa, is a national of a participating country who is eligible to visit the U.S. under the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, or seeks to visit Guam only and is eligible to visit Guam under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, the alien should make an Infopass appointment with the USCIS Application Support Center on Saipan.

The alien should bring to the appointment his or her valid passport, evidence of CW status (Form I-94), and information on his or her travel plans including, as available, invitation letter, documented business or personal reason for travel, and itinerary.

Upon approval, USCIS will annotate the Form I-94.

The alien should present the annotated Form I-94 and passport to any U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer encountered when departing the CNMI or elsewhere in the U.S. The ultimate decision whether to permit the travel is CBP's decision.

There is one other specific authority for nationals of the Philippines to "transit" the Guam airport when traveling to or from the Philippines, and USCIS issued such guidelines last year.

Philippine nationals may travel between the CNMI and the Philippines or vice versa through the Guam airport under the following conditions: The individual is in valid CW status and is traveling on a direct itinerary involving a flight stopover or connection in Guam of no more than eight hours, and the individual remains at the Guam airport during the stopover or connection.

Philippine nationals eligible for this transit privilege do not require a B visa or advance approval of travel by USCIS.

USCIS also recently answered the question, "Can an alien with CW status who is otherwise eligible for B visitor status (either with a valid B visa or VWP eligible) attempt to travel to or from another part of the United States through a foreign airport?"

USCIS said this is strongly discouraged.

"CW status is lost upon departure from the United States, and a CW visa is invalid for admission to the United States at any port of entry outside the CNMI. Even if the alien has a valid B visa or is VWP eligible, he or she might well be deemed inadmissible because B visitors are supposed to have foreign residence, rather than residence in the CNMI or any other part of the United States," it said.

If the alien succeeded in being admitted to the United States as a B visitor, he or she could only regain CW status in the CNMI by returning to the CNMI again through a foreign airport (not returning through Guam) with a valid CW visa (not the B visa).

If the alien returned to the CNMI through Guam, he or she would remain in B status, which does not permit engaging in the employment authorized in CW-1 status.

USCIS said a CW nonimmigrant who wishes to travel to the rest of the U.S. after transiting through a foreign place should apply to the USCIS Guam Office by filing a Form I-131 requesting an advance parole document.

This document would authorize the parole of the CW nonimmigrant into the U.S. when arriving from a foreign place.

However, the CW nonimmigrant using this method must obtain a CW visa abroad before returning to the CNMI.

If the CW nonimmigrant was paroled into the United States, and returned to the CNMI through Guam, the individual would remain a parolee rather than resuming the CW status which provides authorization to work in the CNMI.

‘Chapter 11 filing was in discussion since September 2011’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Boston-based counsel for the NMI Retirement Fund has disclosed that the filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition was already being talked about with the Fund’s outside counsel, Braddock Huesman, since September 2011.

The Fund filed the Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on April 17, 2012. The filing surprised many CNMI government officials and lawmakers as well as Fund retirees and members.

Attorney Jeremy B. Coffey, one of the partners for the law firm Brown Rudnick LLP, said the Fund turned its consideration to restructuring its obligations through a proceeding under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code after exploring and exhausting all other options.

Coffey said the Fund then contacted their law firm in Boston in September 2011 to discuss the implications of a potential Chapter 11 filing.

Also discussed was how the tools provided under the Bankruptcy Code might be used to enhance the Fund’s estate and modify obligations to Fund members so as to prevent the Fund’s collapse, said Coffey in his law firm’s application for payment.

The Fund has repeatedly announced that its assets will be depleted by July 2014.

Coffey said that given the many unusual aspects of the Fund and its obligations, the prospect of a Chapter 11 filing raised numerous novel, complex issues to be considered. He said their law firm researched relevant issues and participated in many conference calls with the Fund and its outside counsel, Huesman.

Coffey and Huesman reportedly went to the same college and graduated together.

Coffey claimed that between September 2011 and March 2012, their law firm provided the Fund services with an approximate value of $187,000 yet they did not charge the Fund for these services.

Once the Fund made the decision to pursue Chapter 11 petition, Coffey said, their law firm and the Fund agreed on a discounted rate structure.

Under the agreement, Coffey said, their attorneys whose hourly rates range from $325 to $955, would all be filled at a flat “blended rate” of $475 per hour.

In addition, Coffey said, their law firm voluntarily discounted the billing rates of its paralegals by 20 percent.

He said their law firm agreed to cap at $125,000 the amount it would be paid in any particular month during a Chapter 11 proceeding in an effort to assist the Fund in managing its cash flows and expenses on a month-to-month basis while the Chapter 11 proceeding remains pending.

Coffey said their law firm agreed that it would not incur fees and expenses in excess of $750,000 without prior consent from the Fund’s board.

He said they further agreed that, if their law firm’s fees and expenses were to exceed $750,000 during the course of the Chapter 11 case and the Fund’s board does not approve the fees above the cap, either party could terminate their engagement.

Attorneys’ fees and expenses being demanded by the lawyers involved in the Chapter 11 case have reached a total of $844,650.93, covering the period from April 17, 2012, to June 13, 2012.

Of that amount, Coffey and his law firm’s demand payment is $719,293.50 for professional services plus reimbursement of $46,644.32 in expenses, for a total of $765,937.82.

Coffey listed 10 lawyers, including himself, and two paralegals that incurred the $704,293.50 in attorneys’ fees. Coffey’s fee reached $117,895.

Huesman, the Saipan-based counsel for the Fund, on the other hand, is demanding $9,201 in attorney’s fees plus reimbursement in the amount of $2,046 for a total of $11,247.

Colin Thompson, the Saipan-based counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, is seeking total compensation of $2,341.50. Don Jeffrey Gelber, the Hawaii-based counsel for the creditors’ committee, is demanding total compensation of $65,124.61.

Manta Band gets invite to perform at Olympic Park

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On top of its performance at the 2012 London Olympics, the Manta Ray Band has also been invited to showcase their talents in a 30-minute bonus show.

Musical director Will DeWitt told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the venue of the additional show is at the Olympic Park bandstand, adjacent to the basketball facility where Team USA stars such as Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, and Kevin Durant will see action on July 29.

» Group still short of $40K to meet $250K target

The pride of Saipan Southern High School is already scheduled to perform at Westminster Abbey, Queen Elizabeth’s Conference Center, and a torch ceremony in Central London.

According to DeWitt, the local students are one of just a handful of high school ensembles to receive an invite to perform inside the Olympic Park as officially recognized entertainers.

The band members are scheduled to fly to London the early morning of July 23.

To date, the group still needs $40,000 to meet their $250,000 target budget for the two-week tour, DeWitt said.

The deficit, it was learned, is for the band’s incidentals, like certain meals, ground expenses, large instrument rentals in London, and the like.

In London, the students will be housed at the University of Central London in Camden. It is for this accommodation—much cheaper than lodging in hotels—that the band still owes payment. DeWitt told *Saipan Tribune* that the group has closed its fundraising gap from $90,000 to approximately $40,000.

“Considering that the total budget for this two-week tour is $250,000, a deficit of only $40,000 means we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. However, we are not yet out of the tunnel and seek continued support from our community, which has been incredibly generous and supportive throughout the past year,” he said.

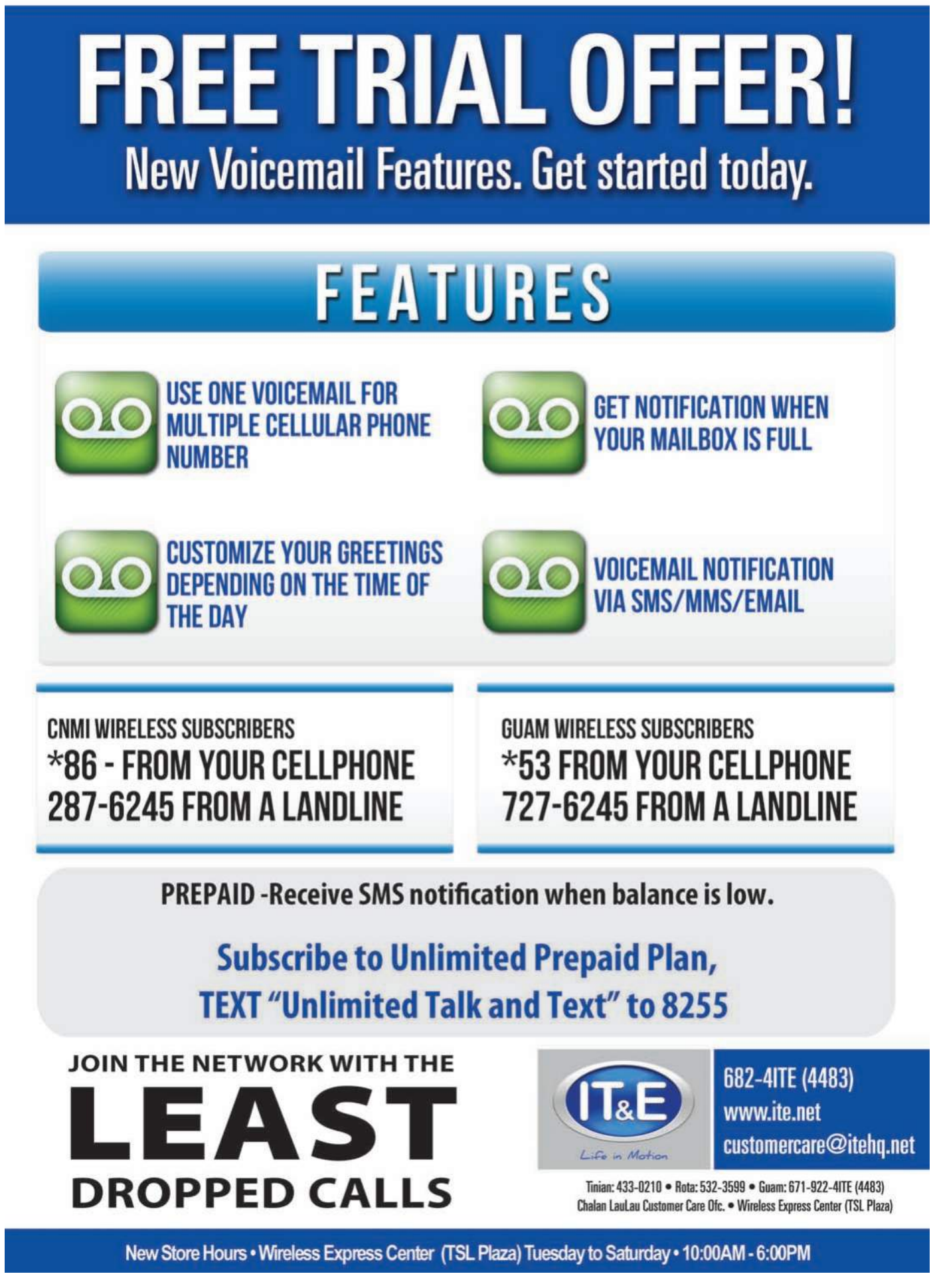
He disclosed that the group’s deadline for final payment is on July 15 and the band is appealing to those who may have been waiting “on the sidelines” to help them seal the deal.

DeWitt said the students themselves are gearing up for three more fundraisers, including a carwash at McDonald’s Middle Road sponsored by the Lions Club of Saipan on July 8, from 7am to 2pm, and a rummage sale at Mt. Carmel Cathedral grounds on July 15, from 7 am to 4 pm. A bowling tournament and a radio telethon are also in the works.

Manta Ray Band members are also rehearsing for up to five hours per day to polish their repertoire, which includes *Urban Dances* (Erik Morales), *We Are The World* (Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie), *Strategic Air Command* (Clifton Williams), *American Symphony* from *Mr. Holland’s Opus*, *Sleep* (Eric Whitacre), *Mariana Variations* (CNMI Anthem), *Soul Bossanova* (Quincy Jones), and songs by Earth Wind and Fire, and more.

“I really think our kids are going to be fantastic ambassadors for the CNMI in every way,” said DeWitt, adding that every performance will be filmed by a media specialist who will accompany the group to London.

If any individual or business would like to add their name to the band’s growing list of supporters, contact DeWitt at 989-6987 or willdewitt69@gmail.com. Educational tax credit donations, DeWitt said, remain a popular and convenient tool for many to give generously during difficult economic times.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FEATURES
USE ONE VOICEMAIL FOR MULTIPLE CELLULAR PHONE NUMBER
GET NOTIFICATION WHEN YOUR MAILBOX IS FULL
CUSTOMIZE YOUR GREETINGS DEPENDING ON THE TIME OF THE DAY
VOICEMAIL NOTIFICATION VIA SMS/MMS/EMAIL
CNMI WIRELESS SUBSCRIBERS
*86 - FROM YOUR CELLPHONE
287-6245 FROM A LANDLINE
GUAM WIRELESS SUBSCRIBERS
*53 FROM YOUR CELLPHONE
727-6245 FROM A LANDLINE
PREPAID -Receive SMS notification when balance is low.
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67th Liberation Day Parade

Grand Marshall David Mangarero Sablan smiles as he points to the crowd.

Rep. Joseph Palacios is among the bikers of the Matua Riders and Guam Hogs.

The United Filipino Organization's winning float.

2011 Liberation Queen Joni Francesca C. Castro.

Officers and members of the U.S. Navy take part in the parade.

Color Guards and JROTC units.

A visiting Korean dance company performs a traditional fan dance for the crowd.

The CNMI Boy Scouts stand ready to salute to the audience.

Family members sit comfortably on plastic chairs and use umbrellas to block the heat as they watch the parade.

Members of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association chant for the crowd.

Officers and members of the United Filipino Organization smile for the camera.

The young members of the Saipan Music and Dance Studio with some parents.

Local students who recently visited Korea are on board Big Boyz Saipan's iconic Chicky Chicky Bang Bang transportation

From right to left, 2012 Grand Marshall David Mangarero Sablan, Mayor Donald Flores, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and war veteran Marven Avilla.

The Marianas High School Lancheros members with instructor and agriculturist Isidoro T. Cabrera.

The Japanese delegation during their performance.

The 2012 Liberation Royal Court wave to the spectators.

The 2012 Liberation Queen and Royal Court are joined on stage by Capt. Richard A. Rainer, Jr. of the U.S. Navy, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delta Air Lines representative Esther Sound, and 2012 Liberation Committee overall chair Jonas Barcinas.

Vehicle sales in June up by 8.6 percent

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After reporting a whopping 117-percent upsurge in May, vehicle sales settled for a more modest 8.6 percent increase in June.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association said Tuesday it sold 38 new cars, vans, trucks, and sports utility vehicles in June, only a three-unit difference from the same month last year.

"The 'modest' increase is in reality a bit of a disappointment," CADA secretary Douglas Brennan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said in June 2011, "inventory levels were still very low as a result of the series of disasters in Japan." Brennan was referring to the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters in Japan.

Brennan

"I personally expected a larger increase for June 2012. A better July? I sure hope so," Brennan added. Brennan is also president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and general manager of Microl Corp.

Despite the modest increase in June, CADA's year-to-date sales are still promising, with a 31-percent increase compared to the first half of last year.

Microl Corp. sold 15 new vehicles, up from only eight last year. This brings its year-to-date sales to 148 or a 64-percent increase. Microl is the dealer of Toyota and Chevrolet.

Joeten Motors sold 15 new vehicles in June, only one unit up from last year during the same month. Its year-to-date sales posted a 2.5-percent increase compared to last year's. Joeten Motors is the local dealer of Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia.

Triple "J" Motors, meanwhile, sold only eight new vehicles in June, compared to last year's 13. But its year-to-date sales still posted a 21-percent increase from last year's.

Of the 38 new vehicles sold in June, 16 were cars, 15 were SUVs, five were vans, and two were trucks.

Toyota Yaris was the top car of choice with five units sold in June, followed by Hyundai Accent, Kia Soul, and Toyota Corolla, each with two units sold. Also sold were one each of Honda Fit, Hyundai Elantra, Hyundai Genesis Cp, Kia Forte, and Toyota Camry.

Among SUVs, the most saleable in June was Kia Sportage with four units sold, followed by Hyundai Tucson with three, and Toyota 4 Runner, two. Other SUVs sold were one each of Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Mazda CX5, Nissan Pathfinder, Nissan Xterra, and Toyota Highlander.

Of the five vans sold last month, four were Toyota Sienna and one was Ford E-Van.

The two trucks sold in June were one each of Ford F-150 and Nissan Frontier.

CADA also sold 21 used vehicles last month, bringing to 127 the total sold during the first half of 2012.

Public radio silent pending repairs on Friday

Saipan, Tinian, and Sinapalo, Rota listeners to local broadcasts of National Public Radio, BBC World Service, jazz, classical blues, folk, and other non-commercial programming have been doing without since equipment problems caused service interruption on Sunday night. Repairs are scheduled for Friday morning.

"It's a feature of our system," said Darryl Taggerty, president and chief operating officer of Marianas Educational Media Services, Inc., the nonprofit organization that provides public radio services in the CNMI. "We designed our stations to be financially viable within the capacity of our local listeners, businesses and government to support. Unfortunately, it takes longer to recover from technical problems. We can't simply call friends at other local stations for spare parts."

Public radio for the Northern Marianas broadcasts on 89.1FM. Radio station K206BM features a full-time simulcast of Guam's KPRG-FM. Marianas Educational Media Services agreed to perpetuate noncommercial radio programming in the CNMI when the Nothern Marianas College re-assigned its radio station budget to core academic programs in 2009. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ivan Blanco, CNMI Deputy Secretary of Commerce, and Mark Rabauliman, ELHP grant coordinator and CNMI registrar, observe CNMI SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative training with CNMI SHRM president Debra Camacho and SHRM program manager Frank Gibson.

OIA's Pula visits SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative training group

The 21 trainees undergoing job preparation and administrative job skills training received a visit on June 26 from the Director of Insular Affairs, Nikolao Pula, along with his CNMI Desk Officer, Frank Taitano. Pula had the opportunity to briefly observe Maria Luisa Ernest, a certified Senior and Global Professional in Human Resource and vice president of the SNMI SHRM Chapter, providing instruction to the class on Basic Customer Service.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative training program is supported by a portion of a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs under the U.S. Department of Interior for $1 million for the Labor Enhancement Program, also called the "Quick Employee Development Program." The categories under the grant included three programs: Tourism Hospitality, Labor, and Agriculture and Aquaculture. The CNMI SHRM grant provides employment development training under the Labor aspect of the grant.

In his remarks to the trainees, Pula expressed the importance of the trainees' success in completing the sessions and entering the job market. He told the trainees, "Your success in completing this training and entering into the job market is also a success for the Labor Enhancement Program for U.S. qualified employees."

Workforce Readiness program manager Frank Gibson and CNMI SHRM Chapter president Debra Camacho were present to greet Pula and to explain the Initiative program. Gibson told Pula that this was the third batch for his program and the largest (21 participants) to date. He also advised Pula that this program provides administrative skills training, following programs for warehousing and wait staff/food service training, in an effort to train participants for a range of occupations.

Federal Ombudsman Pam Brown and CNMI Field Representative for OIA Jeff Schorr were also present for Pula's visit, along with ELEP project coordinator and CNMI registrar Mark Rabauliman and CNMI Deputy Commerce Secretary Ivan Blanco. Rabauliman stated that the FELD program is on track and that all the sub-grantees are already on their second and third phases. He said that he is currently tabulating surveys and will be reporting on progress performances by the end of this month.

"It is always a pleasure to have our grantor representatives visit our project sites, so as to showcase federal and local partnership in enhancing our community, especially with the challenge to fill the labor pool shortage for U.S. qualified workers," said Rabauliman. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 5, 2000

Aliens pose little pressure on public health facilities

Despite their overwhelming presence in the Northern Marianas, nonresidents continue to put too little pressure on public health facilities, with U.S. citizens accounting for the highest percentage of hospital visits in the period covering 1994 to 1999, a federally-funded investigation of the CNMI disclosed. The U.S. General Accounting Office revealed that nonresidents, who comprise about 58 percent of the total population of Saipan in 1999, accounted for only between 26 and 29 percent of the patient visits to Department of Public Health facilities each year from 1994 to 1999.

GOP defends party fees

Republican Party Chair Joseph C. Reyes expressed satisfaction over the number of likely candidates seeking its nomination as he brushed off criticisms against the policy of requiring payment of fees upon submission of letter of intent. Less than a dozen GOP members have met the deadline set by the party on the submission of the notices for the positions of governor, lieutenant governor, resident representative to the United States, senators and mayor for Saipan. "We now have enough pool of candidates and these are the ones who are serious in running for and winning a public office," Mr. Reyes told in an interview.

July 5, 2001

Fitial: Freedom more fragile than ever

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial yesterday called on the people of the Commonwealth to be more vigilant in guarding their rights as US citizens as he warned that "our freedom and liberty are more fragile than ever before." In a Fourth of July speech during Liberation Day festivities at the American Memorial Park, Fitial also extolled the many brave men and women who lost their lives during the last world war defending the "peace and democracy we now enjoy." The speaker, a staunch supporter of local self-government and free market policies, adamantly opposes moves in US Congress to federalize immigration, labor and wage laws in the CNMI. He has been in the forefront of lobbying efforts against a federal takeover of local immigration and labor control.

USCOE wants comment on PCB plan, study

The US Army Corps of Engineers' Honolulu Engineer District has scheduled a public meeting on the Tanapag PCB Remediation Project and released two key documents for public comment. The public meeting will be held Wednesday, July 11, at 7pm at the Tanapag Elementary School. Those attending will be briefed on the Proposed Plan that evaluates treatment alternatives for the approximately 20,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil that have been excavated from Tanapag Village and stockpiled in the village since August 2000. Following the briefing, the Corps will solicit and record comments on the plan from the attendees.

July 5, 2002

Tanapag residents oppose PCB plan

Tanapag residents, through Tanapag Action Group chair and now Director of Personnel Management Juan Tenorio, are opposing plans to use treated soil from PCBs to cover the Puerto Rico dump. Tenorio assailed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for saying that the soil treated from PCB contamination would be suitable for cover to close the dump. The EPA welcomed TAG's concern, but assured that the treated soil is not at harmful levels. "Those soil are dirty," Tenorio said. He reasserted that, based on an earlier report by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that was concurred by the EPA, the soil contained other contaminants besides PCBs. Some of them were cadmium, chromium, dioxin, lead and mercury.

Legislature passes $40M land compensation bill

Just one more signature is needed-the Governor's-and the CNMI government can now go full-swing in retiring all outstanding land compensation claims owed to landowners. In a rare back-to-back session that had both chambers working at fever-pitch, the Legislature finally gave its stamp of approval Wednesday on House Bill 13-1, which would secure the $40 million needed for this express purpose. As what House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider jokingly said during the session, "All it takes is a typhoon to make the two houses work together," provoking laughter inside the chamber.

DCCA secretary: The truth about food stamps

In recent media reports, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) stated that he had food stamp funding increased first by 13.6 percent, then by another $1 million this year. Sablan says that he doesn't consider it "welfare" because he knows that it is basic human decency to help feed the hungry.

These recent statements by Sablan have infuriated CNMI agencies charged with the administration of food stamp benefits: the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the CNMI NAP Office.

"I find this statement ironic coming from someone that Wake Up America Movement referred to as the 'hungriest man in the House,'" said DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao.

The WUAM reports states that Sablan is "the Democratic House delegate for the Northern Mariana Islands (which didn't even have a delegate until after the 2008 elections), who spent more on food than any other legislator. In fact, Sablan spent $6,000 more than the second-place legislator, Texas Republican Michael Burgess, who spent $17,515."

Faisao also points out that Sablan claims that he supports the Public School System, and at the same time, the implementation of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the CNMI. The odd pairing of advocacy for public schools and an expanded dependency on food stamps is something that Faisao says is an insult to CNMI students.

Faisao

"I strongly believe that our children are much more valuable than our delegate thinks they are. Our children want to strive hard in school and grow to be productive members of our society and our workforce. They don't want to simply be dependent on welfare handouts," added Faisao.

The DCCA secretary also lashed at Sablan for fielding false claims that federal grants come to the CNMI because of his work in Congress. The CNMI USDA block grant is negotiated through a memorandum of understanding by the CNMI state government and the USDA FNS/Western Regional Office. Under the current NAP system, the CNMI distributes nutritional assistance to qualifying members of the community in the form of coupons. The CNMI NAP system exists pursuant to the authority granted to the Secretary under 48 USC Section 1469d(c), which provides in part, "[t]he Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to extend, in his discretion, programs administered by the Department of Agriculture to the Northern Mariana Islands"

Under this authority, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs execute a memorandum of understanding each year governing the operation of the NAP. The program is federally funded by the USDA's food stamp budget.

Although similar in its purpose and in many of its features, the NAP is not part of the Food Stamp Program or the now commonly referred to as SNAP. Unlike the SNAP (Food Stamp Program), the NAP is funded by a capped block grant rather than a mandatory appropriation. Thus, applicants for NAP benefits who satisfy eligibility criteria can have their benefits denied or reduced once payments under the program reach the capped amount of the federal grant.

Even the USDA FNS Western Region Office Administrator informed the CNMI that implementing SNAP requires a thorough review of its advantages and disadvantages. In a previous letter to DCCA, the WRO Administrator stated, "The benefits of bringing SNAP to CNMI are many. Nevertheless, it is important to weigh both the benefits and costs of such a transition."

Cognizant of the CNMI's challenges, Faisao lamented that the NAP was purposefully designed to differ from SNAP in order to meet the unique needs of the people of the CNMI. Alternatively, SNAP adheres to a baseline of national eligibility and benefit standards.

"If we were to move forward with this conversation, besides data collection and analysis, an important factor to discuss is that [the] CNMI would no longer enjoy the flexibility afforded by the block grant pertaining to eligibility requirements, benefit amounts, and similar policy decisions," said Faisao. "SNAP regulations would require that CNMI discontinue its "Local Share" requirement, the ability to purchase non-food items with benefits, and taxation of foods purchased with SNAP benefits."

The CNMI would also be eligible for bonuses for excellent performance and subject to fiscal penalties for sub-par performance under SNAP. Therefore, Faisao says that what we need "is a member of Congress who will push for a welfare assistance program that will provide a mechanism to transition these families from temporary public assistance to becoming a self-sufficient and contributing member of our CNMI workforce."

Faisao also urged leaders to look into whether SNAP would be an economic advantage to the fisherman and farmers of the CNMI. ***(Office of the Governor)***

$11.9M loan OK'd for energy upgrades at Guam airport

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development has approved an $11.9 million Community Facility Loan for the Guam International Airport Authority to finance energy efficient upgrades identified in an energy audit conducted by Johnson Controls.

The loan will help the GIAA save approximately $1.9 million in annual energy costs. The primary loan lender is First Hawaiian Bank. USDA selected First Hawaiian Bank to encourage increased partnerships on other Guam projects.

USDA Rural Development provides a credit enhancement to help finance community facilities in rural areas. Through the Community Facility Guaranteed Loan Program, Rural Development guarantees up to 90 percent of loss of principal and interest on loans made and serviced for construction or improvements of community facilities that provide essential public services in rural areas.

"More energy efficient systems at Guam International Airport are important to maintaining our position as one of the top U.S. destinations for foreign visitors," said Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU). "Energy efficiency will help provide savings that is critical for the long-term operation of the airport. Moreover, it is important that the federal government continue its investment in the island. I will continue to support these efforts and look forward to seeing these funds benefit our community." ***(PR)***

BUSINESS WORKSHOP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the last workshop conducted by the Small Business Development Center have their picture taken in front of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office in Garapan. Front row, from left, Gabriel Arkoh and Damiana Arkoh. Second row, from left, Small Business Development Center office manager Linda T. Cabrera, Jeanette Sarabia, Pat Sinkevitch, Reynaldo Garcia, and CNMI SBDC director Perry Inos Jr. and Carlito Pundol. Back row, from left, Emmanuel Eredianno, Han Yoo Lee, and PISBDCN Network Director (Guam) Casey Jezenska.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board
will be held on Thursday, July 12, 2012
at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor,
Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of June 4, 2012 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings
1. None

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business
1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012

E. New Business
1. Office operations report

F. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Marian M. Guerrero, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-GOV-078
Purchase of Ground Maintenance Equipment & Tools

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Purchase of Ground Maintenance Equipment & Tools.

The project package will be available Thursday, June 28, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 18, 2012 to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB12-GOV-078"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, July 25, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time July 25, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 25, 2012 and must be received no later than August 7, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, August 8, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on July 25, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty **(60)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars **($100.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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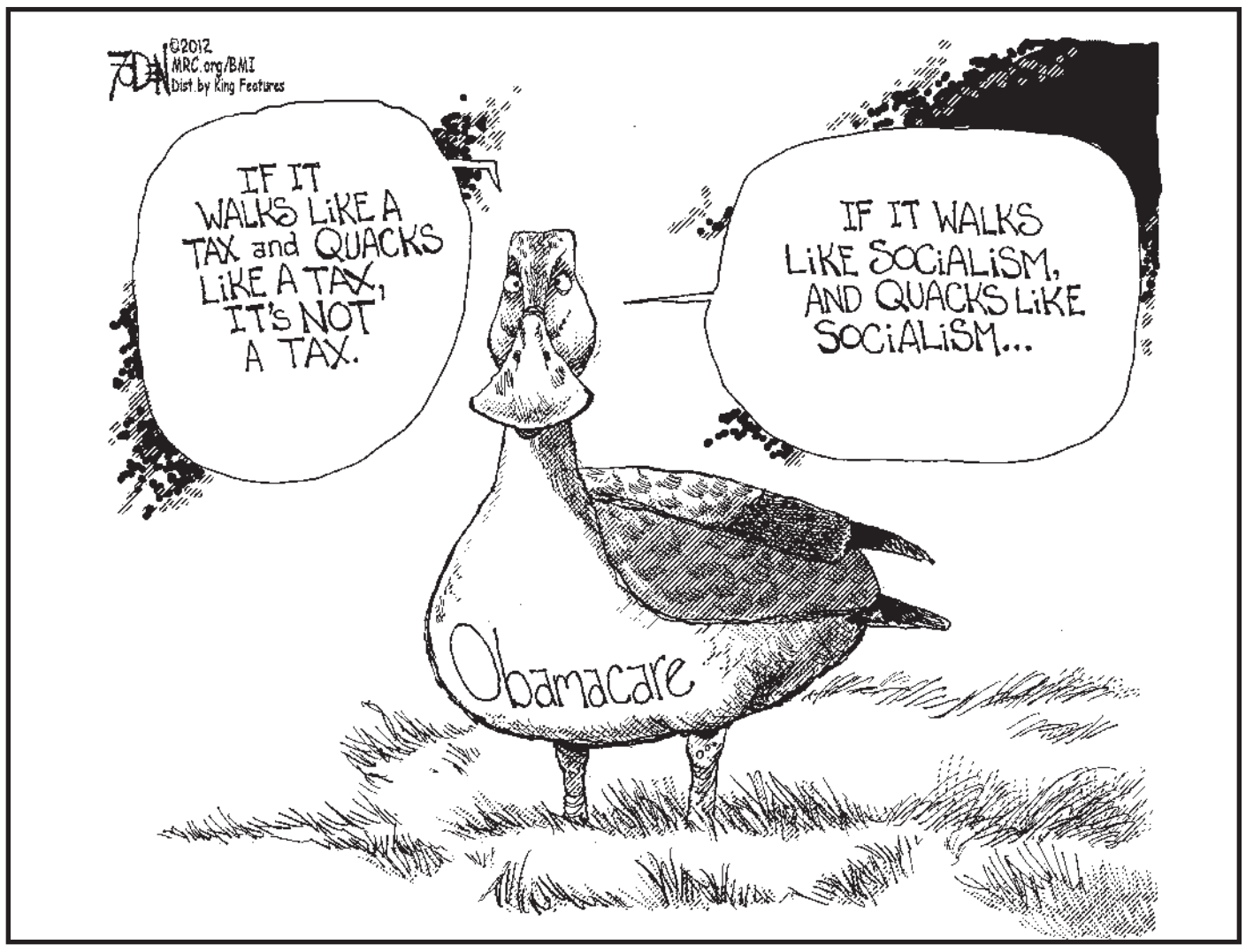
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association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IF IT WALKS LIKE A TAX and QUACKS LIKE A TAX, IT'S NOT A TAX.
IF IT WALKS LIKE SOCIALISM, AND QUACKS LIKE SOCIALISM...
Obamacare

EDITORIAL

Leaked email reveals ugly Penn State truth

If you retain even a shred of regard for Joe Paterno and what he accomplished at Penn State, you should be glad he didn't live to see this.

Paterno was fired in disgrace in November, apparently caught up in revelations of a longtime aide's serial sexual crimes against children. In January, Paterno died at 85 from lung cancer. In June, Jerry Sandusky was found guilty on 45 counts of sexual abuse against young boys, most targeted through his charity, which was supposedly devoted to helping troubled youths.

For what's left of Paterno's legacy, that's far from the worst of it. His story all along had been that he dutifully—and legally—forwarded to supervisors a graduate assistant's allegation that he saw Sandusky having sex with a boy in the Penn State football showers in February 2001. After that, he let others handle it. This is what Paterno told a grand jury and what he insisted in subsequent interviews.

If only he had known. If only he had done more.

It wasn't enough to save his job, but it did allow him to die comforted that legions of Penn State fans believed the university had wrongly sullied his reputation by firing him.

Now, the truth paints a far uglier, if more plausible, picture.

It never made sense that Joe Paterno, the biggest man on campus and his-word-is-law authority figure over an elite program, would meekly hand off such explosive allegations about a former trusted aide. Especially when that former assistant still had an office and full-run privileges in Paterno's building.

Not long after the scandal broke, Penn State hired former FBI Director Louis Freeh to conduct an internal investigation. Email discovered and leaked to CNN offers the most conclusive evidence yet that Paterno's tale was tall indeed.

Top university officials—since-fired president Graham Spanier, vice president Gary Schultz and athletic director Tim Curley—apparently had agreed to report Sandusky to state child welfare authorities until Paterno interceded, emails show. Curley, after speaking to the legendary coach—once his coach—wrote to Spaniel that a more "humane" solution would be to handle this quietly and in-house.

Child welfare officials were never alerted. When Sandusky stood trial, testimony revealed four boys were victimized after February 2001. Paterno and the others could have stopped a serial pedophile; instead, they protected a university's reputation and its treasured football program.

Unsurprisingly, Paterno's family is irate that leaked email is casting their patriarch in such awful light. Perhaps there's more to the story, as they no doubt would insist.

Perhaps buried amid the new evidence is a message from someone, anyone, that might read: "But if this is true, it's a felony crime. We have to take this to the authorities." Given the events to date, that seems as implausible as Joe Paterno's dishonored expressions of regret for Jerry Sandusky's true victims.

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Living life and making a living

"My life is not about making a living; I am about living a life," my father used to say. It was his surreptitious way of explaining why he was not rich. As a pastor of the United Methodist Church, he had not yet appropriated the now popular wisdom that there is no reason for the God-fearing not to be prosperous. Before the altar of affluence, the rituals of prosperity trump the methods of cruciformity!

As pastor to the Guam United Methodist Community Church in '83, after a decade of service with the global staff of the Institute of Cultural Affairs concerned with the human factor in global development, I overheard my oldest daughter conversing with our neighbor.

"What does your father do," the neighbor asked.

"He does development," was my daughter's reply.

"Is he rich?"

"No, but he makes other people rich."

Not exactly the way I would have scripted the conversation, but this was real life, not a staged one. My daughter at 10 was only narrating her experience and telling it in the metaphors she grew up in.

I do not have anything against wealth. I wish I had a bundle and change. Or, more accurately, I wish I had the relentless hunger of one who would not sit still unless one was earning something at every turn. My passion has been directed elsewhere.

Worldwide, the discipline of making a living dominates our lives. We watched last week foreign students from Third World countries, Nigeria, Ghana, Sri Lanka, India, Cote d'Ivoire, and industrialized France, *inter alia,* graduate in their selected course from our Aerospace University.

As an institution of higher learning, the event was auspicious in that it coincided with the exact time that the Shenzhou space capsule was returning from a successful docking with the Tiangong spacelab, with its three astronauts, including a woman.

The notion of a university, home of unified knowledge, is a medieval creation focusing on the development cognitive faculties. Thinking and research are cultivated virtues, and in a world whose stories revolve around genetic cause, happenstance of chance, and intentionality of choice, the university serves a vital function in the appropriation, anticipation, and management of cause, chance, and choice.

The sensuality of the body and the throbbing of the complex cardio-neural electro-magnetic field of the heart are left behind, critical in the art of living a life. But the resulting certificate's capability to open doors for one's employment is still higher learning's rationale.

As shown in a video presented by the graduating French students, the learning experience was not confined to the classroom. The journey to a completion certificate looked more like culminating a sojourn on the assaulted confines of one's protected ethnic universe by the awesome presence of the strange, profound, and the seemingly ridiculous environs of the emergent global Zhongguo.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

For those who spent four years on campus, the day was a valedictory of a cocoon, a chrysalis, metamorphosing into the *hudie,* the butterfly, Zhongguo's metaphorical symbol for anticipating the future with hope. "Dreams are rising from SAU," declares Chairman Wang Wei's message in the IEC English brochure.

I have often wondered how, each time we march into the athletic field on Sports Day, a ragtag army of foreigners looking like they are attired by Germans and organized by the Italians (my anti-Atlantic bias is showing) could fit into the carefully orchestrated and manicured environs of SAU.

The graduation exercise was an example of formal deformity. IEC Dean Chen opened the event on time but students colorfully attired continued to trek into the ceremonial hall half an hour later.

The presence of diplomatic dignitaries lent the traditional flavor of pomp and circumstance, but the elegantly dressed and well coiffed students belie the reality that here we have a creative lump of raw energy that can hardly be contained in the niceties of social ceremonies. The foreign students' contingent was organized chaos, at best, in manners and behavior.

What we had was a graduation of Presence. It was not about the celebration of where students came from, nor the drum beating of a glorious future they are walking into. It was more an embodied declaration of being here, totally present for the moment, grateful for what had gone before, affirmative of what is yet to come, but celebrative of the sheer mysterious gift of the sounds of silence in the here-and-now.

A Chinese-Korean mother brings her not-yet 2-year-old to the remedial school where we hang out on weekends so that he can get familiar with this English teacher, and hopefully, would become one of our students. I refuse taking on the young one as a student, but it appears that the progress of the smart not-yet 4-year-old tot I am currently tutoring has caught not a few mothers' attention. The mother, of course, is not intent in the delight of learning a second language, as she is interested in getting her son ahead of the line toward China's version of Ivy League schooling!

The discipline of making a living remains everyone's preoccupation. But I am with Dad on this one. Our pedagogy centers on the art of living a life. Period.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In divided era, what does July 4th mean?

By TED ANTHONY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the market for new designer eyewear this Independence Day? Look no further than Wize Eyes on Long Island. "So Proudly We Hail," the chain advertised this week, "With Fashion Eyewear ... At Half The Price."

Perhaps Competition Subaru of Smithtown's flag-themed "July 4th Blast of Savings SALES EVENT" is more up your alley this year. Or possibly you need some last-minute hot dogs for your Fourth of July cookout? Don't miss the Dietz & Watson "Grill-a-bration."

Look around, and one truth seems kind of self-evident. If you arrived in America with entirely fresh eyes, it would be easy to conclude that the summer's day on which we celebrate our hard-won independence from England is merely a pause to blow up some colorful explosives, cook some meat over an open flame and get some good deals on major appliances. And, of course, drink beer.

But that can't be all there is. Can it?

In an era when everything from health care policy to immigration divides us more than it unites us, when the Internet allows us to tear apart our fellow Americans' virtual throats from the comfort of our keyboards, what does a holiday like Independence Day mean? Is commercialism the only thing that keeps us together? Does this tribal-feeling nation of niches and special interest groups and online communities still have much use for a holiday that, at its most elemental, celebrates the societal-level version of "Hey—I'm sick of you, so I'm leaving"?

After 11 score and 16 years, we certainly know how the routine goes.

We gather in our groups, with families and friends and neighbors, and we put politics aside. We cluster in community streets and sit upon community lawns to take in parades, then gaze up at the sky and see the bombs bursting in air and claim, for ourselves, some kind of collective proof that the flag is still there.

But how many of us (and it would be a fair point to suggest that even the very term "us" is a bit ridiculous in America these days) actually stop and think about our political lot on Independence Day? Cynical though the notion may be, it's hard to find a person who says, "Well, yes, actually, I do engage in discourse about the state of our republic with my fellow Americans between bites of potato salad."

Independence Day can seem like a bubble, neither a unifier nor a divider. The American heroics discussed are yesterday's, not today's. Everything is torpid and summery and more about the pursuit of happiness than life and liberty. And in that way, it's about as American as you can get. It's about community in the micro—about getting together for the fireworks show, not about where our country is these days.

"It's a romantic idealism. We remember what we think America should be," says Tricia Quinn, an architect and a political independent who lives in Orlando, Fla.

"My idealism is that on that day we agree we're a wonderful nation of open-minded democratic people who respect each other," she says. "On Independence Day, we're trying to put aside our differences and hope that we all believe in the same thing, that we're playing from the same rule book."

Rule book: an interesting term. Think about it for a moment. What do we celebrate Wednesday? A declaration of independence—a conception, really, rather than an actual birth. A decision that we will be a separate nation. But the work—most of the war to win it, and the compromises necessary to build it—was still ahead. Independence was asserted in 1776, but the rule book we're playing from, the Constitution, was still 11 years and countless casualties away.

It's the American instinct to celebrate the big, epic, unifying event rather than the tortuous process of give and take and, yes, rancor that followed. Is it possible that we should be celebrating the Constitution rather than the declaration—the house that Americans actually built rather than merely the idea to build the house?

"The Declaration is about our aspirations and the Constitution is about how we do it. And how we do it is messy and imperfect," says Brian C. Mitchell, a longtime educator and historian who was, most recently, the president of Bucknell University.

"The Constitution is what precipitates and provokes debate," Mitchell says, "But I think the Declaration is the right thing to celebrate. Because it's about who we want to be."

He's an optimistic guy (yes, another American trait). Beyond the broad contours of our society, much of what puts us at odds is emphatically that—deep-rooted disagreements about precisely who we want to be. More government or less? More immigrants or fewer? More assertiveness in global participation or a drawback?

It's not as if we've always been a very united United States. We've fought bitterly with each other from the beginning, and of course there was the small matter of a civil war in the 19th century. But the increasing ability to self-sort—to create communities both geographic and virtual that effectively wall us off from Americans whose lot and values we don't really share—wreaks fresh havoc on the ability to get along with the next guy.

"As Americans have moved over the past three decades, they have clustered in communities of sameness, among people with similar ways of life, beliefs, and in the end, politics," Bill Bishop writes in "The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart."

Analysis of roll-call votes in Congress tells us that Democrats and Republicans are farther apart than at any point in American history, says Mark Oleszek, a political scientist at Albright College in Reading, Pa. The jury's still out as to whether this is quantifiably true of the non-governing non-elites—the rest of us. But it certainly can feel that way, particularly when helped along by the amplification of increasingly histrionic media.

"Partisanship is as American as apple pie," Oleszek says. "The word pragmatism is totally gone in American politics. And yet pragmatism is an American style, and by definition it requires consensus. ... When brinksmanship becomes the norm, you get a different kind of politics."

In the end, on Independence Day, the scripted narrative tells us to remember the beginning of something great—the chance at being exceptional, at growing into the shining city on the hill that one of the earliest proto-Americans, John Winthrop, evoked.

You can question American exceptionalism all you want—and sometimes, there's a lot to shake your head about—but in the end Independence Day is revealed as something quite extraordinary: a holiday that celebrates an idea. Lots came of that idea, and lots of it was, and still is, very messy.

But for the only nation in the world that was built solely upon an idea, to take one day out of the year to celebrate that idea, maybe that isn't such a bad idea in itself—even if it unfolds amid the exuberant static of multiple Grill-a-brations and other capitalist outbursts.

The Declaration of Independence began with these words: "When in the course of human events ..." And whenever human events are at play, messiness prevails. The exceptional messiness that a single document produced, and the possibilities that followed and are still playing out: Those, in the end, are what we the people celebrate Wednesday. Cue the propane.

Ted Anthony writes about American culture for The Associated Press. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/anthonyted/

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarifications on Medicaid

Medicaid patients and the private clinics and pharmacies that provide them service are the latest victims of the government's "austerity" squeeze, as you reported in *Medicaid benefit cuts in the offing*, July 4, 2012. Services are being cut. No more dental care. Optometry and eyeglasses out. No more prescription drugs paid for.

So people need to know what's really going on.

We get 55 cents in federal Medicaid money for every 45 cents the Commonwealth spends providing health care to citizens with low incomes. That's a good deal for a cash-strapped government with lots of people who can't afford insurance.

As recently as last September the Commonwealth used the favorable 55-45 split to draw down $8,121,000. That money and the 55-45 rate are both part of Obamacare, which the Supreme Court upheld last week.

Obamacare can be confusing, however. So I wanted to make a correction to your story. Our Medicaid rate does not return to 50-50, as it had been before the new law. The rate stays at 55-45 through 2014 and beyond—unless Republicans in Congress repeal the law, which they have promised to do.

Your story also includes the statement that some U.S. states "enjoy 100 percent coverage." This, too, is not true. The most favorable rate in the current fiscal year is 74-26 for the state of Mississippi.

What is true is that the 55-45 rate for the Northern Marianas and all the U.S. insular areas is actually better than the rate for 16 of the U.S. states, including Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

Of course, our current rate does not account for income levels in the Northern Marianas. If it did, our federal-local match would be like Mississippi or better.

That's why I have co-sponsored the Health Equity and Accountability Act, H.R. 2954, which will give the Commonwealth the best rate available to any U.S. state.

With Republicans now in control of the House and sworn to repeal our current 55-45 split, the Health Equity and Accountability Act doesn't have much of a chance. But continually improving the federal-local rate, as we did in Obamacare, is our long-term goal.

In the short-term we have to block Republican attempts to repeal Obamacare and take away the new Medicaid money—about $100 million for the Northern Marianas—and the better rate we have already gained.

We have to believe that in time the Commonwealth government finances will improve. When that happens, the new $100 million will still be there to pay for those who can't afford health care.

And those Medicaid dollars will help CHC and will also help keep in business the private practice doctors, dentists, opticians, and pharmacists who serve us all.

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress
Washington, D.C.

We need proof and we need our money

It doesn't matter where you put the money anymore. Both the board of trustees and lawmakers have no better solution. But at least, in today's article, Gov. Fitial has a point. Only we just need proof. Like, for example, who are these beneficiaries? Are they relatives of the lawmakers who made that failed law?

If Richard Villagomez provides us with proof that what he is saying is all true, then why in the first place did he wait this long to tell the retirees about all these problems?

Lawmakers, you said that buyback of SS is the solution, yet the active members already expressed that they want their contributions back, so what's holding you back? Is there something we need to know? What makes you think that Social Security is right for us?

Another thing: Since this money is being deducted from our paychecks, why can't we be allowed to take it back?

Gov. Fitial and lawmakers, I've been to Rota for a funeral recently. Many families there whose paychecks have been reduced are facing poverty far worse than what I've seen before. Aside from that, making money or even small business is very hard because there are always other competitors that are better. Fishing and farming are also hard, because many jobless foreign workers are also fishing and going about the same business to make a living. Many times, too, our farm was vandalized by hungry families. And to hire laborers is also difficult with very little money. Loaning money is impossible as many of us already have lost our credentials to apply for a loan. Even those living under food stamp are facing hardships from reduced food stamps. Many families who are not eligible for Medicaid and are ill are getting worse because either they couldn't pay for medical care or cannot afford to pay for their medication or purchase the food they need. So, if there is any humanity left in your heart, please give us our money back and let us invest it ourselves and find other means of making a living. Whatever your reason for holding the money, please open your heart and hear the cries of your people.

Not doing so is probably why those crimes on Saipan are happening already. Tourist are being robbed, murdered, children kidnapped, rapes, poker robberies and many more. Don't wait for it to get worse. Find ways to help your people with their living necessities.

Again, open your ears and your eyes, and from your heart extend your hand to the cries of your people because you're killing us.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose Village, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East to southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

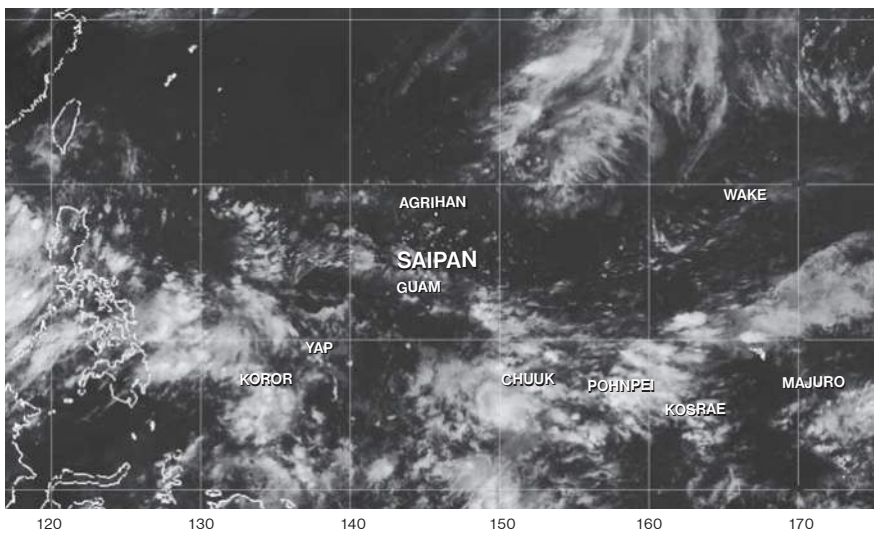
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼47
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲83	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Showers	▲72	▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼40
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲93	▼74
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼74
Paris	Showers	▲73	▼58
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼73
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼68
Salem	Sunny	▲77	▼51
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67	▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲77	▼72
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲84	▼73
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲97	▼79

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 13N130E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk at 3N147E to end near EQ150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found west of Yap and near Koror west of a line from 13N136E to 4N137E and near Chuuk within 250 miles of a line from 10N148E to EQ153E. An upper-level low centered near 14N138E is triggering a few thunderstorms west of the Marianas within 80 miles of a line from 16N136E to 15N144E. Converging winds south of Koror are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of a line from 3N132E to 3N145E. A surface trough extends northeastward from 4N155E to 11N1613. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen across Pohnpei state within 150 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Kwajalein between 9N and 14N from 166E to 176E and southeast of Majuro east of a line from 2N173E to 6N172E. A surface trough stretches northeastward from 22N150E to beyond 25N at 151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Minami Tori Shima or north of a line from 23N150E to 21N153E to 22N157E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:42 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
8:37 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:06 PM	7:02 AM
Friday	8:53 PM	8:00 AM
Saturday	9:36 PM	8:56 AM
Sunday	10:16 PM	9:49 AM
Monday	10:55 PM	10:39 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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Business

Netflix's monthly video streaming tops 1B hours

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Netflix subscribers watched more than 1 billion hours of online video last month as the advent of high-speed Internet connections and high-powered mobile devices change people's viewing habits.

The milestone announced Tuesday by Netflix CEO Reed Hastings came a day after Citigroup analyst Mark Mahaney issued an upbeat report about the company's future. Those factors helped lift Netflix's stock by more than 6 percent in Tuesday's abbreviated trading session.

The stock is still struggling to recover from last fall's sharp increase in U.S. prices, which triggered a backlash among customers and investors alike. Netflix shares gained $4.19 Tuesday to close at $72.04, well off their peak of nearly $305 last July.

The rising usage of Netflix's Internet video service may turn out to be a mixed blessing as the company phases out its DVD-by-mail rental service to focus on its goal of building a lucrative franchise in Internet-streamed video.

Netflix is trying to wean people off DVDs to save on mailing costs and reduce its investment on a format that it expects to become obsolete. Delivering Internet video is quicker and less expensive than discs, but the streaming selection isn't as extensive as what's available on DVDs. To compensate, Netflix has been spending tens of millions of dollars during the past two years to add more compelling titles.

Netflix's increasing popularity indicates that those efforts are resonating with subscribers. That's important because it helps validate a strategy that called for Netflix Inc. to invest heavily in video-licensing fees, even though the spending is expected to saddle the company with an annual loss this year—the first time that has happened in a decade.

But Netflix's licensing bill could climb even higher, if TV and movie studios interpret the growing streaming viewership as a threat to the revenue they reap from advertising-supported entertainment bundled in cable-television packages.

One of the biggest reasons that Netflix's streaming service is catching on is because it costs just $8 per month to watch an unlimited amount of video without commercial interruptions. The average cable-TV subscription costs about 10 times more, with advertising interspersed with the programming on most channels. Netflix now has 26.5 million worldwide subscribers to its streaming service, more than the 22.3 million TV subscribers at the leading cable provider, Comcast Corp.

Hastings has tried to position Netflix as a supplement to cable-TV subscriptions, but that argument will become more difficult to make as Internet streaming cuts down the amount of time people spend watching traditional TV, Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter said.

In the most extreme instances, some households have canceled their cable packages entirely—a process known as "cutting the cord"—and relied on a lower-cost alternatives such as Netflix or another service such as Hulu.

"Netflix is starting to cannibalize cable-TV viewership and it could start cannibalizing advertising, too," Pachter said. If that happens, he expects Netflix's licensing fees to rise even higher than the company has been anticipating as studios try to make up for the revenue they lose from cable providers and advertising-supported broadcasters.

The 1 billion hours of online viewing in June works out to a monthly average of about 38 hours per streaming subscriber. That's up from an estimated monthly average of 28 hours in December, based on the 2 billion hours of combined streaming activity that occurred during the final three months of last year. That was the most recent time that Netflix had quantified its streaming usage.

Mahaney's report said that more than one-third of Netflix's streaming subscribers watch about as many TV series as they do movies over the Internet.

That trend also could reinforce the perception that Netflix looms as a threat to the cable-TV industry.

Hastings, though, has insisted that Netflix helps drive more viewers to some series by making it easier for people to catch up on previous seasons. He believes the availability of the first four seasons of "Mad Men" in Netflix's streaming library, for instance, helped increase viewership for new episodes on AMC this past spring.

Internet video appears to be making Netflix less vulnerable to seasonal shifts than it had been when most of its subscribers used the service to rent DVDs. The company used to experience a slowdown during the summer months when many subscribers were on vacation or spending more time outside to take advantage of the longer days.

Carmakers report strong June sales, easing worries

DETROIT (AP)—From mini cars to monster pickups, sales of new cars and trucks surged in June and eased concerns that Americans would be turned off by slower hiring and other scary headlines.

Automakers sold nearly 1.3 million cars and trucks in June, up 22 percent from the same month last year. Chrysler posted its best June in five years. Sales soared at Volkswagen, which is on track for its best year in the U.S. since 1973.

The results allayed fears that the car market's momentum had stalled. U.S. sales were on track to reach 14.5 million after the first four months of the year. But the annual pace dropped to 13.8 million in May, as the stock market plunged and hiring slowed. June brought more worrisome news about jobs growth and consumer confidence.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil prices at highest since May on Iran concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—Renewed tensions between Iran and the West pushed oil its highest level in more than a month. Iran is again threatening to block a critical Persian Gulf shipping route in response to a European embargo of Iranian oil. Iran has sparred for months with the West over its nuclear program. Benchmark U.S. crude added $3.91, or 4.7 percent, to end at $87.66 per barrel in New York. That's the highest price since May 30. Brent crude, which sets the price of oil imported into the United States, rose above $100 for the first time in three weeks. Brent added $3.34, or 3.4 percent, to finish at $100.68 per barrel in London.

Manchester United files for IPO in US

NEW YORK (AP)—Manchester United plans to go public. In the United States, to boot. The record 19-time English champions filed a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday to hold an initial public offering of stock and become a listed company on the New York Stock Exchange. The deal could ease pressure on the club's cash flow as it tries to keep and acquire players in an attempt to regain English and European titles. While the stock price and the number of shares were not listed, the registration statement said the club hoped to raise a maximum of $100 million—a place-holding figure that could change before the offering becomes effective.

RCBC executives earn, pioneer AIF™ designation credentials

MANILA, Philippines—The Asia Pacific Association of Fiduciary Studies gave recognition to three senior executives of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation who earned their Accredited Investment Fiduciary™ designation from the most sought-after Accredited Investment Fiduciary™ Training Program recently facilitated in Manila by fi360. The AIF™ Program is a two-day, classroom-based course which covers the components of a comprehensive investment process and related standards of care that a fiduciary must observe in performing its functions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, APAFS executive director Daniel A. Roland, AIF™, CIMA, with RCBC executives who are also pioneer graduates of AIF™ in the Philippines; Raoul Santos, AIF™; Lourdes Bernadette Ferrer, AIF™, and Eric Victoria, AIF™.

The trainees from Trust and Investments Group of RCBC are considered the very first Filipinos who have successfully completed the program and earned the highly coveted AIF™ designation, namely: Ms. Lourdes Bernadette M. Ferrer, First Senior Vice President and Trust Officer, Mr. Raoul Santos, First Vice President and Mr. Eric Victoria, Trust Business Development Head.

"At this time when the global investment environment is characterized by both uncertainty and opportunity, the structured decision making process taught through this course assures that the best interest of a trustee's clients are well served at all times," said Ferrer.

"The AIF™ Program sets the standards for best practice investment decision-making. I found it to be robust and comprehensive and of enormous benefit to anyone involved in trust management," added Santos.

The AIF™ designation is one of the most sought-after designations in the finance and investment industry according to *US Financial Planning Week Magazine*. The accreditation courses are conducted by Fi360, an institution which promotes a culture of fiduciary responsibility and improves the decision making processes of investment fiduciaries and other financial service providers. The institutions' solutions include educational training programs, the AIF™ and AIFA professional designations, analytical and reporting technology and ongoing support for all types of fiduciaries and financial service providers, including advisors, wealth managers, plan sponsors, trustees, brokers, accountants, lawyers and more.

The training programs are done in coordination with APAFS, which is a Guam based 501c3 non-profit association whose mission is to raise the level of standards of practice among fiduciaries in the Asia Pacific region. APAFS members comprise central governments, government agencies, colleges and universities and other institutional investors. APAFS is also an endorsed Country Sponsor authorized by the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS) Executive Committee to promote the GIPS standards. The GIPS trademark and logo and the GIPS standards are owned by the CFA Institute.

This year, the AIF™ Training will once again set sail on Philippine shores on Nov. 13 and 14 prior to the premier 12th Annual Pacific Region Investments Conference (PRIC) hosted by the Asia Pacific Association of Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) on Nov. 15 and 16 at the New World Hotel, Makati City.

For more information about the AIF™ Training Program and the 12th PRIC, visit www.apafs.org. You may also contact APAFS through Daniel A. Roland, CIMA, executive director at executivedirector@apafs.org or call (+671) 687-8823. ***(PR)***

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,943.82	1,374.02	2,976.08
+72.43	+8.51	+24.85
+0.56%	+0.62%	+0.84%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9742	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7555	Philippine Peso	41.8760
British Pound	0.6374	Indian Rupee	54.8546	Singapore Dollar	1.2640
Canadian Dollar	1.0150	Indonesian Rupiah	9,398.4	South Korean Won	1,139.2
Chinese Yuan	6.3123	Japanese Yen	79.7448	Swiss Franc	0.9540
Euro	0.7941	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1579	Taiwan Dollar	29.8954
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2442	Thailand Baht	31.4861

Nation

Easy fix eludes power outage problems in US

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the aftermath of violent storms that knocked out power to millions from the Midwest to the Mid-Atlantic , sweltering residents and elected officials are demanding to know why it's taking so long to re-string power lines and why they're not more resilient in the first place.

The answer, it turns out, is complicated: Above-ground lines are vulnerable to lashing winds and falling trees, but relocating them underground involves huge costs—as much as $15 million per mile of buried line—and that gets passed onto consumers.

With memories of other extended outages fresh in the minds of many of the 1.07 million customers who still lacked electricity late Tuesday, some question whether the delivery of power is more precarious than it used to be. The storms that began Friday knocked out power to 3 million and have been responsible for the deaths of 24 people in seven states and the District of Columbia, including a utility contractor who fell to his death Monday in Garrett County, Md.

AP

David Robertson and Steve Jones fill their shopping cart with juice at the Mick-or-Mack IGA grocery store, Monday, July 2, 2012, in New Castle, Va.

"It's a system that from an infrastructure point of view is beginning to age, has been aging," said Gregory Reed, a professor of electric power engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. "We haven't expanded and modernized the bulk of the transmission and distribution network." The powerful winds that whipped through several states late Friday, toppling trees onto power lines and knocking out transmission towers and electrical substations, have renewed debate about whether to bury lines. District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray was among officials calling for the change this week and was seeking to meet with the chief executive of Pepco, the city's dominant utility, to discuss what he called a slow and frustrating response.

"They obviously need to invest more in preparing for getting the power back on," said Maryland state Sen. James Rosapepe, who is among those advocating for moving lines underground. "Every time this happens, they say they're shocked—shocked that it rained or snowed or it was hot—which isn't an acceptable excuse given that we all know about climate change."

Though the newest communities do bury their power lines, many older ones have found that it's too expensive to replace existing networks.

To bury power lines, utilities need to take over city streets so they can cut trenches into the asphalt, lay down plastic conduits and then the power lines. Manholes must be created to connect the lines together. The overall cost is between $5 million and $15 million per mile, according to the Electric Power Research Institute, Inc., a nonprofit research and development group funded by electric utilities. Those costs get passed on to residents in the form of higher electric bills, making the idea unpalatable for many communities.

Power lines are already underground in parts of Washington, but initial estimates are that it would cost as much as $5.8 billion to bury them throughout the entire city and would cost customers an additional $107 per month, said Michael Maxwell, Pepco's vice president of asset management. North Carolina considered burying its lines in 2003, after a winter storm knocked out power to 2 million utility customers. The North Carolina Public Staff Utilities Commission eventually concluded it was "prohibitively expensive" and time-consuming. The project would have cost $41 billion and taken 25 years to complete—and it would have raised residential electric bills by 125 percent.

US says sorry, Pakistan opens Afghan supply lines

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ending a bitter seven-month standoff, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton apologized to Pakistan on Tuesday for the killing of 24 Pakistani troops last fall and won in return the reopening of critical NATO supply lines into Afghanistan. The agreement could save the U.S. hundreds of millions of dollars in war costs.

Resolution of the dispute also bandages a relationship with Pakistan that will be crucial in stabilizing the region. The ties have been torn in the past year and a half by everything from a CIA contractor who killed two Pakistanis to the unilateral U.S. raid on Osama bin Laden's Pakistan compound.

But the accord carries risks for both governments—threatening to make Pakistan's already fragile civilian leadership look weak and subservient to the United States while offering fodder to Republicans, including presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who contend that President Barack Obama says "sorry" too easily.

The first trucks carrying NATO goods should move across the border on Wednesday, U.S. officials said. It could take days to ramp up supplies to pre-attack levels, but around two dozen impatient truck drivers celebrated the news in a parking lot in the southern city of Karachi by singing, dancing and drumming on empty fuel cans.

"We are sorry for the losses suffered by the Pakistani military," Clinton said, recounting a telephone conversation she had with Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar concerning the deaths that led Pakistan to close the supply routes. "I offered our sincere condolences to the families of the Pakistani soldiers who lost their lives. Foreign Minister Khar and I acknowledged the mistakes that resulted in the loss of Pakistani military lives."

"I am pleased that Foreign Minister Khar has informed me that the ground supply lines into Afghanistan are opening," Clinton added in her statement.

It marked the first time any U.S. official formally apologized for the deaths, a step hotly debated within the Obama administration and one demanded by Pakistan before it would reopen the supply routes. Pakistani lawmakers also wanted Washington to halt all air strikes in the country and stop shipping weapons and ammunition to Afghanistan through Pakistani airspace, demands the U.S. has ignored. Negotiations stumbled at one point over transit fees Pakistan sought to charge.

Guns blamed for starting wildfires in parched West

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Campfires, fireworks and even lit cigarettes can spark wildfires. In the tinder-dry West, there is growing concern about the threat from guns.

This year, officials believe target shooting or other firearms use sparked at least 21 wildfires in Utah and nearly a dozen in Idaho. Shooting is also believed to have caused fires in Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico.

Those concerns come as states grapple with ways to cut the risk of new fires ahead of the Fourth of July holiday when many people fire their guns to celebrate the nation's independence.

Officials have been asking the public to scale back shooting as legions of firefighters contend with one of the busiest and most destructive wildfire seasons to ever hit the West.

In Utah, Republican Gov. Gary Herbert took the unusual step of authorizing the top state forest official to impose gun restrictions on public lands after a gunfire-sparked fire. The official is expected to do so within days.

Herbert said his decision doesn't limit gun rights but is a common sense response to dry conditions.

Guns rights advocates, meanwhile, were skeptical that firearms use can cause so many wildfires.

Clark Aposhian, chairman of the Utah Sports Shooting Council, said that perhaps 5 percent of the wildfires in the state have been caused by target shooters this year. "I don't know how much of a problem it really is," he said.

Utah officials believe steel-jacketed bullets are the most likely culprits, given one shot that hits a rock and throws off sparks can ignite surrounding vegetation and quickly spread. Popular exploding targets are also blamed for causing wildfires.

The bullets were recently banned on state and federal lands in Utah. Officials are telling sportsmen to use lead bullets that don't give off sparks when they hit rocks.

Many in the West are avid Second Amendment proponents, so most state lawmakers are hesitant to enact any restrictions for fear of a backlash.

"We're not trying to pull away anyone's right to bear arms. I want to emphasize that," said Louinda Downs, a county commissioner in fire-prone Davis County, Utah. "We're just saying target practice in winter. Target practice on the gun range.

ACROSS THE NATION

JetBlue pilot not guilty by reason of insanity

AMARILLO, Texas (AP)—A federal judge in Texas found a JetBlue Airways pilot who left the cockpit during a flight and screamed about religion and terrorists not guilty by reason of insanity Tuesday. U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson in Amarillo issued the ruling during a bench trial for Clayton F. Osbon, noting he suffered from a "severe mental disease or defect." Osbon's attorney, Dean Roper, declined to comment. Osbon, who recently was found mentally competent to stand trial after a court-ordered psychiatric evaluation, will be sent to a federal mental health facility for further examination until another hearing on or before Aug. 6. The judge will decide then whether he can be released or should be committed to a mental facility.

Fireworks explosion sets NH house ablaze; 9 hurt

PELHAM, N.H. (AP)—A fireworks explosion likely inside a home set it ablaze Tuesday night and filled it with smoke, injuring at least nine people, police said. When police officers and firefighters arrived at the home around 7:30 p.m., there were lots of fireworks in and around it, the police department said. The initial report was fireworks had blown up in the home, police said. Firefighters put out the blaze. The nine injured people ranged in age from infant to adult. Two children were taken to Boston hospitals for treatment.

Former Marine guilty of having AK-47 from Iraq

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A federal jury in Southern California has convicted a former U.S. Marine of illegally possessing a chrome-plated AK-47 that may have once belonged to a member of Saddam Hussein's royal guard. Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen Chiu said in a statement Tuesday that 40-year-old Joel Cleve Miller, of Twentynine Palms, was found guilty last week of illegally possessing a machine gun. Miller was not convicted of transporting the weapon from Iraq.

Asia

China aligns with India, Japan on piracy patrols

AP

In this Jan. 6, 2009 file photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, China's missile destroyer Wuhan escorts Chinese ships sailing in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia to safeguard the vessels from piracy attempts.

BEIJING (AP)—China is closely cooperating with the navies of Japan and India in patrolling against piracy off Somalia, a sign of the country's greater willingness to work with other nations in safeguarding global trade despite mixed sentiments among Chinese toward the country's main Asian rivals.

Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force became the lead navy Sunday in the pact that allows the three to synchronize patrols and best allocate each country's escort resources, Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun told reporters at a briefing.

Analysts say the escort pact is a sign of growing Chinese naval confidence that could reduce the chances of confrontation in waters closer to China where navies from Japan, the U.S. and others operate in increasingly tight proximity. With China expanding its naval capabilities and asserting its interests, it's important that Beijing's admirals start working more closely with their foreign counterparts, defense experts say.

"Chinese collaboration with other navies should be welcomed. The hope is that such cooperation will have a positive normative effect on the civilian and military leadership," said Toshi Yoshihara of the U.S. Naval War College.

China joined the Gulf of Aden anti-piracy patrols in late 2008, displaying the fruits of a 500 percent increase in defense outlays over the past 13 years that has allowed the Chinese navy to acquire latest-generation submarines, surface ships, and aircraft, along with an aircraft carrier now undergoing sea trials. In the gulf, it regularly rotates squadrons usually composed of a two warships and a support vessel, accompanied by special forces soldiers.

From the start, the Chinese contingent has been in contact with others in the multinational flotilla as it graduated from guarding Chinese ships to escorting ships of all nationalities. The three nations implemented patrol coordination this year, with China and India taking turns as lead navy before handing off to Japan on July 1. South Korea is reportedly interested in joining the arrangement.

The pact shows how China's expanding global reach is projecting its military into new roles, sometimes in cooperation with ideological foes or traditional enemies such as Japan, which brutally invaded and occupied China preceding World War II.

Anti-Japanese sentiment remains strong among many Chinese, kept raw by the educational system and state media, and stoked by Japan's alliance with the United States and territorial disputes in the East China Sea.

Beijing, meanwhile, sees giant neighbor India as a competitor for influence and they have not settled a border dispute that involved a short but bloody war in 1963.

The decision to cooperate with such rivals reflects a new pragmatism as Beijing seeks ways to expand its military's role abroad, which has also included sending a ship to provide security for Chinese civilians in Libya last year and dispatching a hospital ship on a tour of South America. Having never operated a global navy, China's navy wants to build its capabilities and burnish its reputation, said Barney Rubel, dean of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies in Rhode Island.

"It's politically expedient for them to `go along to get along,' including cooperating with Japan," Rubel said.

Such pragmatism has limits, however. Rubel and Yoshihara say multinational cooperation isn't likely to produce a kinder, gentler Chinese navy when it comes to what China considers its sovereign "core interests," particularly in waters closer to China.

US sending Ospreys to Japan despite local protests

TOKYO (AP)—The United States is moving ahead with plans to deploy its first Osprey military transport aircraft to Japan, despite strong opposition from residents over safety issues following two recent crashes, officials said Wednesday.

The first 12 Ospreys left San Diego on a ship bound for Japan on Sunday. They will be assembled at a Marine base in the city of Iwakuni before being deployed to the southern island of Okinawa, which has a large and often sensitive U.S. military presence.

The plan has created an outcry in both locations following recent crashes of the tilt-rotor aircraft in Morocco and Florida. Japan's Defense Ministry has not announced when the ship is due to arrive, but an Iwakuni official said it would likely be later this month.

"Our position remains unchanged that until we are assured of the safety of these aircraft, we oppose having them here," said Yusuke Yamasaki, an official in charge of base affairs in Iwakuni.

Japanese Defense Minister Satoshi Morimoto traveled to Okinawa and Iwakuni over the weekend to try to quell the uproar, but was met with an angry response.

According to Japanese media reports, Okinawa's governor told him the plan was unacceptable and suggested all U.S. bases there should be closed if the Osprey deployment leads to any accidents. Okinawa hosts about 19,000 Marines and most of the 50,000 U.S. troops based throughout Japan.

Local approval is not essential for the project to go ahead, but the fracas is an embarrassment for Japan's central government ahead of a visit later this week by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

In a briefing with senior Japanese officials last week, the Pentagon said the crashes did not appear to be caused by mechanical failure.

An Air Force CV-22 Osprey crashed last month, injuring all five airmen aboard during a training mission at Florida's Eglin Air Force Base. The Morocco crash, in April, left two Marines dead.

Because of the local concerns, no flight operations will be conducted in Japan until the results of the crash investigations by the Department of Defense are presented to the Tokyo government, which it expects to do in August.

The Pentagon said Osprey flights will continue as usual elsewhere and expressed confidence that Japan's report will be positive.

"The MV-22 Osprey has an excellent safety record," it said in a statement. "Basing the Osprey in Okinawa will significantly strengthen the United States' ability to provide for the defense of Japan, perform humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations and fulfill other alliance roles."

Australia, Indonesia try to help boat in distress

SYDNEY (AP)—Australian and Indonesian rescuers are trying to help a migrant-filled boat taking on water in bad weather and rough seas off Indonesia on Wednesday, a day after the countries agreed to strengthen maritime ties as a way to combat people smuggling.

The wooden boat issued a distress call early Wednesday morning and was believed to have up to 180 people on board, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said. The Australian navy ship HMAS Wollongong found the boat south of Indonesia, but poor weather was preventing rescuers from boarding the vessel, the maritime authority said.

The boat was still afloat by afternoon. Indonesia sent a Hercules plane and a navy ship to the location.

"The boat has rung, said it's in distress, that it's taking on water," Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare told Australian Broadcasting Corp. Radio. "Whenever you have a call like that, you take it seriously."

Indonesia was unable to send its only fiberglass hull boat because of the rough seas, said Gagah Prakoso, a spokesman for its National Search and Rescue Agency. The boat was around 80 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of Panaitan, a small island off the western end of the main Java island.

Australia's debate over how to cope with the increasing flow of asylum seekers has intensified since two boats carrying Australia-bound migrants capsized in the last two weeks. More than 90 people are believed to have been killed when the boats sank in the Indian Ocean between Indonesia and the Australian territory of Christmas Island, where Australia runs an immigration detention center.

Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono discussed how to handle the politically charged problem, along with economic and trade issues, at a meeting in the northern town of Darwin on Tuesday.

Gillard said Australia would work with Indonesia's maritime search and rescue agency to help strengthen its communication abilities with vessels during sea disasters and would look into an exchange program of search and rescue specialists.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar's Suu Kyi says nothing wrong with 'Burma'

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi sees nothing wrong with calling her country Burma even though the government objects. Opposition activists have used the name Burma as a form of protest against the now-defunct army junta that renamed the country two decades ago. Myanmar's election commission complained last week that Suu Kyi repeatedly called the nation Burma during her recent trips to Thailand and Europe. The commission that oversees laws pertaining to political parties said Suu Kyi should stop and should respect the constitution.

Dutch disaster relief worker killed in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say a Dutch activist who heads a volunteer disaster relief organization has been fatally shot outside his office in an apparent robbery. Police investigator Menchu Nucup says Wilhelm Geertman had just stepped out of a car and was about to enter his home and office in northern Pampanga province's San Fernando city Tuesday when two men on a motorcycle tried to grab his bag and shot him in the back. She says the gunmen fled with the bag, which is believed to have contained about 1.2 million pesos ($27,900) the 67-year-old had withdrawn after closing a bank account.

Quake felt across New Zealand; no injuries, damage

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A strong earthquake has been felt throughout much of New Zealand, but there have been no reports of injuries or damage. In the capital, Wellington, homes shook as the quake rumbled for about 20 seconds Tuesday. The U.S. Geological Survey says the magnitude-6.2 quake was centered about 105 kilometers (65 miles) south of New Plymouth on New Zealand's North Island. The temblor's epicenter was 236 kilometers (147 miles) below the surface, and the depth may have helped reduce surface damage. Media reports indicate the quake was felt widely across both the North and South islands.

World

Accusations grow of vote-buying in Mexico election

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Thousands of people rushed to stores to redeem pre-paid gift cards they said were given to them previously by the party that won Mexico's presidency, inflaming accusations that the weekend election was marred by widespread vote-buying.

At least a few cardholders were angry, complaining that they didn't get as much as promised or that their cards weren't working. Neighbors at one store in a poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Mexico City said the unusually large crowds prevented them from doing their daily shopping.

Some people shopping at the store said that they were told the cards would be valid only during the two days after Sunday's election and that they had waited to cash them in until Tuesday because the store was packed Monday.

Under Mexican election law, giving voters gifts is not a crime unless the gift is conditioned on a certain vote or meant to influence a vote. However, the cost of such gifts must be reported, and cannot exceed campaign spending limits. Violations are usually punished with fines, but generally aren't considered grounds for annulling an election.

Some of the people lined up to use gift cards said they got them for supporting the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, whose candidate Enrique Pena Nieto won Sunday's presidential election, according to the preliminary official vote count. Some wore red T-shirts and baseball caps or carried tote bags with Pena Nieto's name printed in white.

Maria Salazar, a 20-year-old university student, came with her 70-year-old father, Antonio Salazar, to cash three cards.

"They gave us the cards in the name of the PRI and Rep. Hector Pedroza (a PRI congressional candidate), and they said they were counting on our vote," Maria Salazar said outside one store, as she carried plastic shopping bags packed with toilet paper, cooking oil, rice, saltine crackers and instant noodle soups.

Her father carried two more packed grocery bags and her 8-year-old nephew carried another.

"They told us they were worth 500 pesos ($37.50), but when we got to the check-out, they were only worth 100 rotten pesos ($7.50)," Salazar said.

Both she and her father said they had been told to turn in a photocopy of their voter ID card in order to get the gift cards.

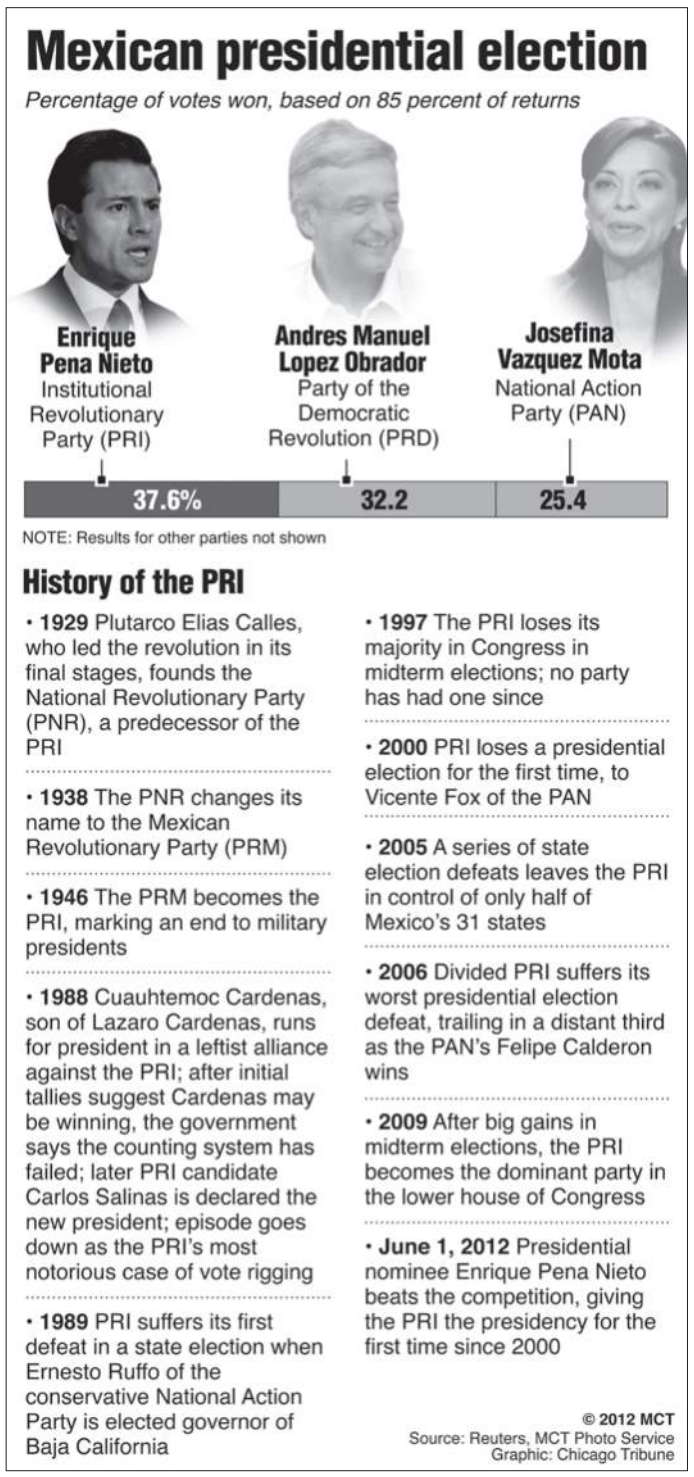
Another woman interviewed outside the same Soriana grocery store also complained that her card had only 100 pesos ($7.50) in credit.

"For helping them with votes and all ... they gave us a card for supporting them, and all that for 100 pesos," said the woman, who gave only her first name, Josefina, for fear of reprisals. She said she got the card for supporting Pena Nieto, but complained that "100 pesos lasts you about five minutes."

Inside the store, long lines formed at card-reading machines as people tried to find the balances on their cards. Some grew angry and shouted insults against Pena Nieto.

Regular shoppers were vexed at the long lines.

"I was going to buy bread right now, but you can see, the lines are tremendous, you can't even get in," said Maria Garcia Lobato.


Mexican presidential election
Percentage of votes won, based on 85 percent of returns
Enrique Pena Nieto
Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)
37.6%
Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador
Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD)
32.2
Josefina Vazquez Mota
National Action Party (PAN)
25.4
NOTE: Results for other parties not shown
History of the PRI
• 1929 Plutarco Elias Calles, who led the revolution in its final stages, founds the National Revolutionary Party (PNR), a predecessor of the PRI
• 1938 The PNR changes its name to the Mexican Revolutionary Party (PRM)
• 1946 The PRM becomes the PRI, marking an end to military presidents
• 1988 Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, son of Lazaro Cardenas, runs for president in a leftist alliance against the PRI; after initial tallies suggest Cardenas may be winning, the government says the counting system has failed; later PRI candidate Carlos Salinas is declared the new president; episode goes down as the PRI's most notorious case of vote rigging
• 1989 PRI suffers its first defeat in a state election when Ernesto Ruffo of the conservative National Action Party is elected governor of Baja California
• 1997 The PRI loses its majority in Congress in midterm elections; no party has had one since
• 2000 PRI loses a presidential election for the first time, to Vicente Fox of the PAN
• 2005 A series of state election defeats leaves the PRI in control of only half of Mexico's 31 states
• 2006 Divided PRI suffers its worst presidential election defeat, trailing in a distant third as the PAN's Felipe Calderon wins
• 2009 After big gains in midterm elections, the PRI becomes the dominant party in the lower house of Congress
• June 1, 2012 Presidential nominee Enrique Pena Nieto beats the competition, giving the PRI the presidency for the first time since 2000
© 2012 MCT
Source: Reuters, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

Galapagos' new star tortoise a prolific dad

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Lonesome George's inability to reproduce made him a global symbol of efforts to halt the disappearance of species. And while his kind died with him, that doesn't mean the famed giant tortoise leaves no heir apparent.

The Galapagos Islands have another centenarian who fills a shell pretty well. He's Diego, a prolific, bossy, macho reptile.

Unlike Lonesome George, who died June 24, Diego symbolizes not a dying breed but one resurrected.

Having sired hundreds of offspring, Diego has been central to bringing the Espanola Island type of tortoise back from near extinction, rangers at Galapagos National Park say.

Diego was plucked from Espanola by expeditioners sometime between 1900 and 1930 and wound up in the San Diego Zoo in California, said the head of the park's conservation program, Washington Tapia.

When the U.S. zoo returned him to the Galapagos in 1975, the only other known living members of his species were two males and 12 females.

AP
This undated photo released by Galapagos National Park shows tortoise Diego at Galapagos National Park.

Chelonoidis hoodensis—some consider it species, some a subspecies—had been all but destroyed, mostly by domestic animals introduced by humans that ate their eggs.

So Diego and the others were placed in a corral at the park's breeding center on Santa Cruz, the main island in the isolated archipelago whose unique flora and fauna helped inspire Charles Darwin's work on evolution.

Diego was so dominant and aggressive, bullying other males with bites and shoves, that he had to be moved eight years later to his own pen, with five of the females. The reptiles are not monogamous.

"Diego is very territorial, including with humans," said his keeper, Fausto Llerena. "He once bit me, and two weeks ago he tried (again) to bite me. When you enter his pen, Diego comes near and his intentions aren't friendly."

A U.S.-based herpetologist for the Galapagos Conservancy, Linda Cayot, says Diego is the most sexually active of the bunch because he's the biggest and the oldest of the males.

"In tortoises, the biggest dominates. It's not that the others aren't active. It's just that he's dominant," she says.

Tapia said it is impossible to know Diego's age, but he is well over 100. He estimates Diego is the father of 40 to 45 percent of the 1,781 tortoises born in the breeding program and placed on Espanola island.

At least 14 species of giant tortoise originally inhabited the islands 620 miles (1,000 kilometers) off Ecuador's Pacific coast and 10 survive, their features developing in sync with their environment, as Darwin observed.

Iraq bombs kill 40; officials eye security bribes

BAGHDAD (AP)—Bombs pounded six Iraqi cities and towns Tuesday, killing at least 40 people and raising suspicion that security forces might be assisting terrorists in launching attacks on Shiite Muslims.

The onslaught came just ahead of a religious pilgrimage that could attract even more violence.

A senior Iraqi intelligence official said checkpoint guards may have been bribed to help al-Qaida-linked Sunni insurgents plant bombs at Shiite marketplaces. The attacks injected new fear into Iraqis, resigned to worsening violence six months after the last American troops left the country.

"We want to live a normal life, but with the current spike in violence and victims, I am personally thinking of moving," said Hassan al-Saadi, 40, a Shiite sports equipment store owner in Baghdad who is considering pulling his four children from school for their safety.

"I see the future as worse," al-Saadi said.

A spike in violence over the last month is blamed partially on Iraq's paralyzing political crisis, which pits Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite-led government against rival Shiite politicians, Sunni Muslims and ethnic Kurds who complain they've been sidelined.

Also, the crisis in neighboring Syria may have allowed weapons intended for the opposition to President Bashar Assad to be siphoned off to Iraqi insurgents.

Tuesday's deadliest attacks hit the southern Shiite cities of Karbala and Diwaniyah. Despite the risk, hundreds of thousands of Shiite pilgrims are expected to gather Friday in Karbala for an annual religious observance.

Sunnis also were targeted. Two blasts hit a residential area in the Sunni city of Taji, just north of the capital, killing three people. Four people died in bombings and shootings in Sunni-dominated Diyala province in Iraq's northeast.

In Diwaniyah, officials said an explosives-laden vegetable truck ripped through a crowded market, killing 26 people and wounding about 75 more.

Rifts split Syria's opposition at Cairo meeting

CAIRO (AP)—Syrian opposition groups struggled to form a united leadership Tuesday at a meeting in Cairo that exposed the vast disagreements that have prevented them from effectively leading the uprising against President Bashar Assad.

The conference ended late Tuesday with an agreement on two documents, both of them vague. One provides a general outline to guide the opposition through a transitional period, while the other lays out the fundamental principles envisioned for a post-Assad Syria.

The delegates agreed in general terms on support for the Free Syrian Army, the dissolution of the ruling Baath Party and the exclusion of Assad or other senior regime figures from a place in the transition.

But they failed to reach an agreement on forming a unified body to represent the opposition.

Arguments were rife among the roughly 250 conference participants over key questions, including whether to ask for foreign military intervention to halt the violence and what role religion would play in a post-Assad Syria.

In other developments Tuesday, Assad told a Turkish newspaper that he regretted that Syria shot down a Turkish warplane last month, and a U.S.-based human rights group said the Damascus regime was running a network of torture centers across the country, citing victims' accounts of beatings, sexual assaults and electric shocks.

Opposition group members interviewed at the Cairo conference by The Associated Press brought into sharp relief their vast disagreements on issues not addressed in the draft charter, suggesting it papered over the divisions that have prevented them from presenting a united front to the international community.

"It's very dangerous at this point," said Abdel-Aziz al-Khayyar, who spent 14 years in Syrian prisons and is now part of the Syrian National Coordination Body. "If we fail to unify as the opposition, it is the greatest gift to the regime."

Focus

Mich. soldier fights to recover after losing limbs

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VASSAR, Mich. (AP)—Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills served two deployments to Afghanistan without suffering anything close to a major injury. Then, in a second, everything changed.

On patrol during his third tour in April, Mills put his bag down on an improvised explosive device, which tore through the decorated high school athlete's muscular 6-foot-3 frame. Within 20 seconds of the IED explosion, a fast-working medic affixed tourniquets to all four of Mills' limbs to ensure he wouldn't bleed to death.

"I was yelling at him to get away from me," Mills remembers. "I told him to leave me alone and go help my guys.

"And he told me: 'With all due respect, Sgt. Mills, shut up. Let me do my job.'"

The medic was able to save Mills' life but not his limbs. Today, the 25-year-old Mills is a quadruple amputee, one of only five servicemen from any military branch to have survived such an injury during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Maria Tolleson, a spokeswoman at U.S. Army Medical Command. And instead of serving alongside his unit, he has been spending his days based at Walter Reed Medical Center, working on rehabilitation after the accident that dramatically altered the trajectory of his life.

Mills doesn't dwell on that. Sitting in his hospital bed, he describes his situation plainly: "I just had a bad day at work."

His family—especially his wife, Kelsey—admires him for that.

"I think he's Superman. I really do," she said. "It's amazing to see just how lucky he is. I mean, he's the luckiest unlucky guy."

Mills' recovery is expected to last at least a year. Already, there have been victories: A procedure performed at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center alleviated the excruciating phantom limb pains Mills was experiencing in the first weeks he was stateside.

He approaches each therapy session methodically, practically.

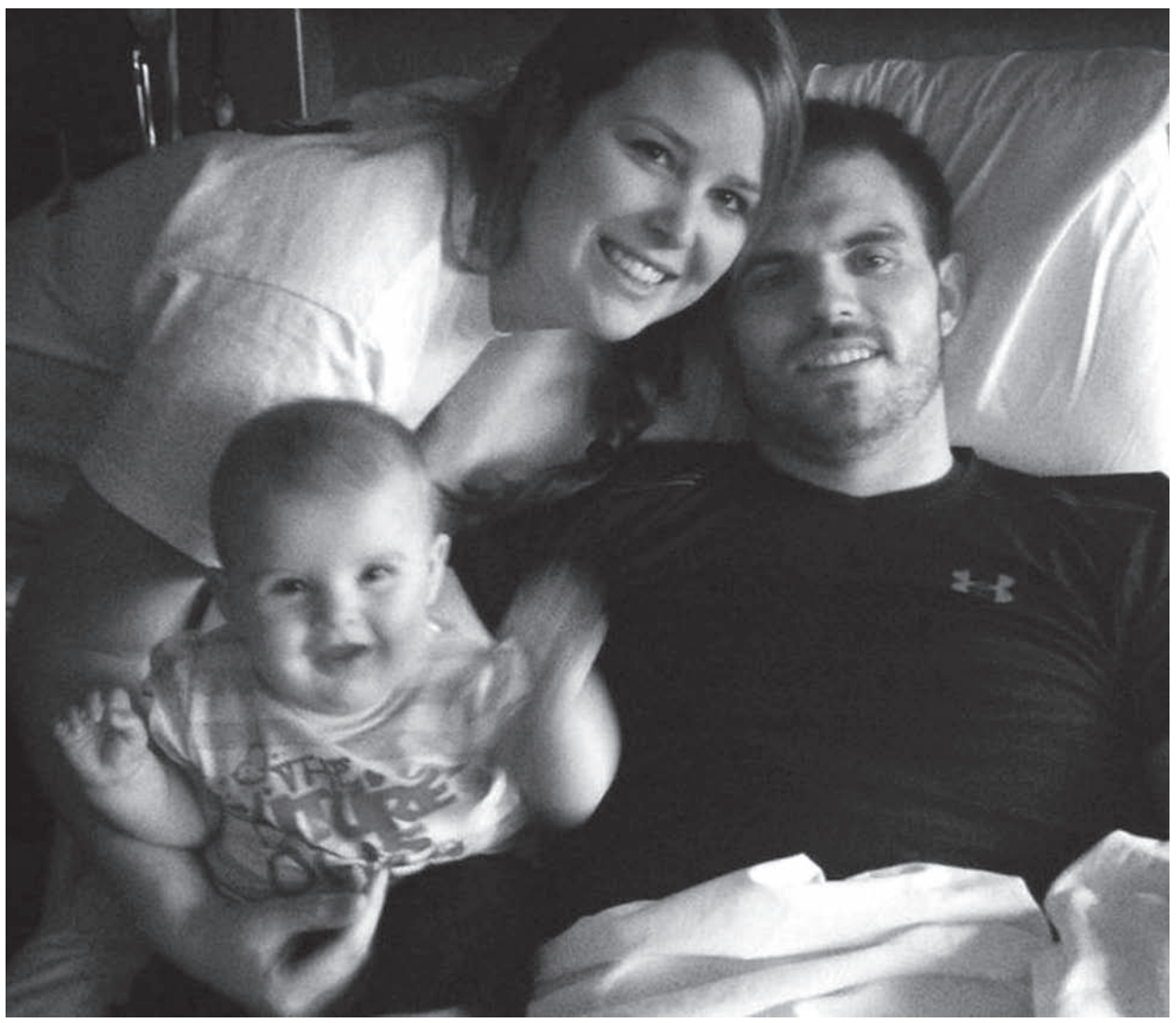
"There's no reason to sit here and look out the window and feel sorry for myself," Mills told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Walter Reed. "It happened. I can't change the fact that it happened. I can't turn back time."

At Walter Reed, Mills is doing exercises designed to make his body leaner while strengthening his core, hip flexors, pectorals and shoulders. He bounces on a trampoline, trying to execute 90-degree turns with his torso. "There's nothing I really don't like (about PT), except I can't do two-a-days yet," Mills jokes.

While he's in the midst of getting his permanent prosthetics, Mills currently needs assistance to do things that most people take for granted, such as cooking and cleaning, or walking and running. As often as Walter Reed doctors let him, Mills makes his way to the Military Advanced Training Center to strengthen his body and prepare for long-term prosthetics. He currently has all four beginner prosthetics.

"They push you to your limit, then they push you a little more," said Mills, a high school football, basketball and baseball star who is more accustomed to bench-pressing and squatting to get bigger.

While he works at learning to use his new artificial limbs, Mills has an army of supporters behind him. On the Facebook page, nearly 20,000 people are tracking his progress and cheering him on virtually through messages.



AP
In an undated photo provided by the Mills family, Travis Mills is seen in his hospital bed with his wife Kelsey and daughter Chloe at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

The page serves as a window into his recovery, and his supporters watch eagerly as he surpasses milestones. When he began to walk on his prosthetics for the first time, a camera followed him as he nudged forward on a small track. With red and white sneakers laced on his prosthetic legs, and crutches gripping his artificial hands, he methodically takes one step at a time while tethered with a harness to the ceiling.

He doesn't just take a few steps. He walks the whole track.

"This is your first day?" an incredulous voice says from nearby.

"Yes, yes it is," he responds proudly, taking another step.

A short time later, another video showed more progress: He walks faster now, swifter than his first deliberate gait.

> *There's no reason to sit here and look out the window and feel sorry for myself. I can't change the fact that it happened. I can't turn back time.*

Videos also show him learning to roll and come to a sitting position in his bed, and learning, patiently, to use an artificial hand. One clip shows him removing colorful clamps from a bar and dropping them in a bucket. Another shows him using that same hand to feed baby food to his infant daughter, Chloe.

"Turkey and rice, tastes so nice!" he sings, as the baby girl opens wide and flaps her hands.

Only a half-year older than his injuries, Chloe has been a significant source of inspiration to Mills. He was there when she was born on the base at Fort Bragg, N.C. He left 4 months later for Afghanistan. Now, she sees him every day—sometimes helping him with his recovery.

Some videos show Mills doing crunches on his bed with an elated Chloe on his torso. In another video, he straps her into his wheelchair and zips around as she waves her hands in excitement.

Mills repeatedly talks of how "blessed" he is to be alive.

"Now I can watch my little girl grow up and see my wife and family again, and everything's good to go," he said. "I didn't die, so that's good. You've got to look at the positive things."

Mills' prognosis moving forward isn't clear, but there have been advances in working with patients who suffer similar injuries. Dr. Karen Pechman, who runs the amputee rehabilitation program at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains, N.Y., said "only in the past few decades has the medical care existed that enables" people who incur the trauma or disease states that would result in quadruple amputees to survive, so it's not yet known whether those who lose all their limbs have their life expectancy diminished.

"There is nothing inherent medically about amputation that would affect subsequent health," Pechman said. "It is ... the activity level achieved by the patient that may impact on subsequent health."

As he recovers, Mills' story is compelling thousands to take notice and offer support. Recognizing that the family will face costs not covered by the Army and insurance, a fund has been set up for his family. There have been 5K runs held in his honor. T-shirts printed. Concerts, golf tournaments, motorcycle rides. Under the banner of hundreds who call themselves "Team Mills," fundraisers have been held in Kelsey's home state of Texas, in North Carolina where the couple lived and many places in between.

Nowhere has more been done, though, than in Michigan, where a recent spaghetti dinner at an American Legion post netted tens of thousands in donations. In Mills' hometown of Vassar, it's hard to find a tree, lamppost or telephone pole without a yellow or red, white and blue ribbon attached. Businesses throughout the 2,700-resident town feature signs encouraging prayer for the Mills family.

"I wouldn't want to go through it. I don't know anybody that would," said Paul Wojno, the principal at Vassar High School and the father of one of Mills' best childhood friends. "But ... if I had to pick one kid in this school that has recently graduated, I'd say Travis would be the one to try to do it."

Mills recently achieved his goal of progressing to the point that doctors OK'd his move to a nearby outpatient facility that allows him to live with Kelsey and Chloe. Now, he's setting his sights on September, when his unit returns to Fort Bragg.

"I'll be there, hopefully on my prosthetics, and I'll be standing in my uniform and I'll have an arm on my right and left side and I'll be able to salute them as they come in. And I'll be standing there waiting for them," he said.

As for all of the supporters who call him a hero?

"Just because stuff happened to me, I don't think it makes me a hero," he said. "I think it just makes me a guy that did his job, knew the consequences of what could happen and something happened."

Environment

Coastal tribes convene to tackle climate change

» Symposium at Smithsonian will bring together indigenous and Western knowledge

On Washington's rugged Pacific coast, the Quinault Indian Nation has depended on salmon for thousands of years. But the glaciers that feed the Quinault and Queets Rivers and sustain these salmon populations are in retreat because of climate change, threatening the very survival of the salmon.

In Alaska, native villages are pulling up stakes and moving to new ground as the permafrost beneath them melts and erodes due to warming global temperatures.

In the U.S. Pacific Islands rainfall and stream levels are decreasing while storm intensity, sea level, and atmospheric and oceanic temperatures are on the rise. Communities are threatened by the resulting decline in underwater aquifers and increases in land-based pollution, coral bleaching, fire risk, hillside and shoreline erosion, and altered fish abundance and distribution.

All around the United States, coastal indigenous people are confronted with loss of food, loss of land, loss of a way of life due to global climate change. But they are working to adapt, as they've adapted to changing conditions for millennia.

Coastal indigenous people, led by the Hoh, Makah, and Quileute Tribes and the Quinault Indian Nation tribes located in Washington state, will host the inaugural First Stewards symposium, to be held July 17-20 in Washington, D.C. This national event will examine the impact of climate change on indigenous coastal cultures and explore solutions based on millennia of traditional ecological knowledge.

Hundreds of native leaders, witnesses and climate scientists will join policy-makers and non-government organizations for groundbreaking dialogue in what is planned to be an annual meeting at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Regional panels will share climate adaptation strategies from coastal and island ecosystems nationwide where Indian Country, Alaskan Natives and indigenous U.S. Pacific Islanders are at the forefront, creating an incubator for climate change solutions. Tribal regulatory environments allow for demonstrations of solutions to pressing needs, such as renewable energy and adaptation strategies for villages.

The symposium is a partnership between the tribal and Pacific Island indigenous communities with scientists and governmental and non-governmental organizations including the National Congress of American Indians, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and National Marine Fisheries Service, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, The Nature Conservancy, and Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Other partners include American Native Renewables; EA Engineering, Science, and Technology; Salmon Defense, Uncas Consulting Services; and United South and Eastern Tribes. ***(PR)***

UOG MARINE LAB STUDY

MPAs safeguard against irreversible losses from overfishing

A team of scientists from the University of Guam Marine Laboratory and other international research institutions has gathered some of the most detailed evidence yet that Guam's marine protected areas (MPAs) maintain and build reproductive biomass a heavily exploited species of reef fish. The study is reported in the latest issue of the prominent scientific journal The Public Library of Science One (PLoS One).

Combining empirical data and mathematical modeling, the team monitored a population of mafuti (Lethrinus harak), a popular food fish, to develop a detailed understanding of the fish's population structure. A novel aspect of the study that lends confidence in the results is that the data was inputted into a customized analytical model which was entirely based on empirically derived and locally pertinent parameters.

MARK PRIEST

Mafuti (Lethrinus harak)

The study helps to resolve a long-running debate in Guam and worldwide about whether MPAs can serve as a "living larder" by periodically opening the reserves to fishing, or whether succumbing to such a temptation might lead to a fishery's collapse via a process known as "recruitment overfishing," in which an adult fish population is depleted to a level where it no longer has the reproductive capacity to replenish itself. The researchers found that even briefly opening MPAs to fishing led to long-term declines in the ability of this species to replenish its numbers, despite many more years of subsequent closure.

"We found that even in a fish with a relatively short life span like mafuti, the MPAs are much slower to recover its largest individuals," said lead author Brett Taylor, a University of Guam alumnus and Ph.D. candidate at James Cook University, Australia. "Our study provides compelling evidence that fish populations respond sensitively and negatively to temporary opening of MPAs for fishing."

Co-author UOG professor Jen McIlwain (now at Curtain University, Australia) added, "In fact, opening MPAs even briefly to fishing, results in preferential mortality of the larger and older fishes most responsible for maintaining the population, making recovery all the harder. This, in turn, makes it difficult for an MPA to do its main job of replenishing nearby areas where fishing is permitted."

This study was conducted at four enclosed reef-flat sites including two marine reserves and two comparable fished sites on Guam. These include Piti Marine Preserve and East Agaña Bay and Achang Marine Preserve and Rios Bay.

ON THE NET

Copy of the study: http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0039599

The study, "Marine Reserves and Reproductive Biomass: A Case Study of a Heavily Targeted Reef Fish" by Brett M. Taylor, Jennifer L. McIlwain and Alexander M. Kerr, was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Sportfish Restoration Program and facilitated by the Guam Department of Agriculture and the University of Guam Western Pacific Coral Reef Institute and is freely available at the PLoS One website at: http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0039599. ***(UOG)***

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

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DO YOUR PART

Sustainable brews for summertime

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Summer is here and many of us will be enjoying outdoor barbecues and celebrations. When you're buying beverages for the adults, Do Your Part and pick a better brew. I'm running down my list of 'Top 5 Sustainable Brews' to showcase some of my favorite selections that are all produced by eco-friendly breweries.

NEW BELGIUM BREWERY

You might be familiar with New Belgium's satisfying ales such as their Fat Tire brand, but did you know sustainability has been a core belief of theirs since the beginning? The folks at New Belgium have an on-site wastewater treatment facility, power their plant and website with wind power, and promote brown glass recycling programs. And get this—every employee is even given a bike so they don't have to drive to work. New Belgium Brewery is located in Fort Collins, Colo.

SIERRA NEVADA BREWING COMPANY

The Sierra Nevada Brewing Company brews award-winning beers and they are also racking up awards for what they do behind the scenes. Their green efforts include on-site creation of most of their own electrical energy with the use of solar panels and fuel cells. They also turn the vegetable oil used in their restaurant into bio-diesel that powers their fleet of cars and trucks. The brewery is located in Chico, Calif.

PISGAH BREWING COMPANY

The Pisgah Brewing Company, located in Black Mountain, N.C., is rightfully proud of being the only Southeastern brewery to be certified organic for each one of their brews. No, that doesn't mean they just have one select organic offering—all of their beers are organic. Period.

MAGIC HAT BREWING COMPANY

There's a lot more to Magic Hat than just flavorful beer. They brew their beer with the planet in mind. In fact, Magic Hat uses a unique and patented method to turn the waste from hops, barley, and yeast used in the brewing process into electricity that powers their plant. The brewery located in Burlington, Vt., also treats its own wastewater.

BROOKLYN BREWERY

The Brooklyn Brewery works hard to go easy on the planet. In fact, the company was the first in New York City to use 100 percent wind-generated electricity. Not only that, the spent grain is used to feed chicken, pigs, and is also turned into compost. Plus, Brooklyn Brewery's warehouse has solar panels that generate enough electricity to power a third of what it uses. The brewery is located in—where else?—Brooklyn, N.Y.

This summer, enjoy yourself responsibly while supporting some of our country's most eco-friendly brews. What a perfectly tasteful way to Do Your Part.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living *available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.*

Life&Style

AP

RECORD PRICE

Christie's employees pose with John Constable's painting "The Lock," which features in a Masterpieces at Christie's auction, London, Tuesday June 12, 2012. Christie's auction house says the piece has sold for 22.4 million pounds, setting a record price for the English romantic painter at auction. "The Lock," finished in 1824, is one of six paintings from Constable's celebrated series depicting the Stour Valley. The painting, which came from the collection of Baroness Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza, was the last of the series to remain in private hands, according to Christie's. It said the piece—which it said was "remarkable for its excellent state of preservation"—was sold Tuesday night in London to an anonymous bidder over the phone. The auction house had estimated the piece would fetch between 20 and 25 million pounds.

Beloved US actor Andy Griffith dies at 86

By MARTHA WAGGONER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP)—Andy Griffith, who made homespun Southern wisdom his trademark as the wise sheriff in "The Andy Griffith Show" and the rumpled defense lawyer in "Matlock," died Tuesday. He was 86.

Griffith died about 7 a.m. at his coastal home, Dare County Sheriff Doug Doughtie said in a statement.

"Mr. Griffith passed away this morning at his home peacefully and has been laid to rest on his beloved Roanoke Island," Doughtie told The Associated Press, reading from a family statement.

President Barack Obama said he was saddened to hear of Griffith's death and called the actor an extraordinary talent.

Griffith had suffered a heart attack and underwent quadruple bypass surgery in 2000.

His career spanned more than a half-century on stage, film and television, but he would always be best known as Sheriff Andy Taylor in the television show set in a North Carolina town not too different from Griffith's own hometown of Mount Airy, North Carolina.

Griffith set the show in the fictional town of Mayberry, North Carolina, where Sheriff Taylor was the dutiful nephew who ate pickles that tasted like kerosene because they were made by his loving Aunt Bee, played by the late Frances Bavier. He was a widowed father who offered gentle guidance to son Opie, played by Ron Howard, who grew up to become the Oscar-winning director of "A Beautiful Mind."

Griffith's "pursuit of excellence and the joy he took in creating served generations and shaped my life," Howard tweeted. "I'm forever grateful."

Don Knotts was the goofy Deputy Barney Fife, while Jim Nabors joined the show as Gomer Pyle, the unworldly, lovable gas pumper.

On "Matlock," which aired from 1986 through 1995, Griffith played a cagey, Harvard-educated defense attorney who was Southern-bred with a practice in Atlanta.

In his rumpled seersucker suit, Matlock could toy with a witness and tease out a confession like a folksy Perry Mason.

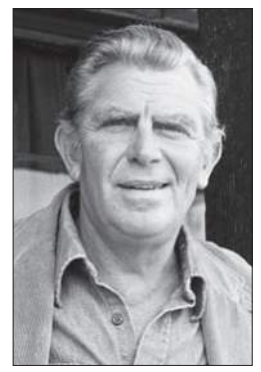
In a 2007 interview with the AP, Griffith said "The Andy Griffith Show," which initially aired from 1960 to 1968, was seen somewhere in the world every day.

"The Andy Griffith Show" was a loving portrait of the town where few grew up but many wished they did—a place where all foibles are forgiven and friendships are forever. That was all a credit to Griffith, said Craig Fincannon, who met Griffith in 1974.

"I see so many TV shows about the South where the creative powers behind it have no life experience in the South," Fincannon said. "What made 'The Andy Griffith Show' work was Andy Griffith himself—the fact that he was of this dirt and had such deep respect for the people and places of his childhood. A character might be broadly eccentric, but the character had an ethical and moral base that allowed us to laugh with them and not at them. And Andy Griffith's the reason for that."

Richard O. Linke, producer of the "The Andy Griffith Show," said the show was "all Andy Griffith."

"We knew we had something. We knew there were other areas other than New York, Chicago and L.A. We knew that the vast land of America, that this is what they would like," Linke said. "I used to say: If he's a hillbilly, he's the hippest hillbilly I ever met."



Griffith

Griffith's career included stints on Broadway and movies such as Elia Kazan's "A Face in the Crowd." He was inducted into the Academy of Television Arts Hall of Fame in 1992 and in 2005, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the country's highest civilian honors.

"The Andy Griffith Show" was one of only three series in TV history to bow out at the top of the ratings. (The others were "I Love Lucy" and "Seinfeld.") Griffith said he decided to end it "because I thought it was slipping, and I didn't want it to go down further."

'Golden sisters' share gift of gab as trio become Web stars

By JEFFERSON GRAHAM
USA TODAY

CANOGA PARK, Calif.—Online, they're known as the 3 Golden Sisters (3goldensisters.com), Los Angeles grandmas and overnight YouTube sensations.

Their video "Grandmas Watch Kim Kardashian Sex Tape" went viral, with more than 2.5 million views on YouTube and replays on Access Hollywood, Anderson Cooper and many local TV outlets. "Our lives changed overnight," says Mary Bartnicki, 80, eldest of the three sisters. "It's mind-boggling."

The sisters' online adventures began when Teresa Dahlquist, 70, read a book about how to produce a reality TV show and met with LMNO Productions (CBS' I Get That a Lot, Discovery's Unusual Suspects) to pitch a series about her plumber son.

LMNO president Eric Schotz hated the pitch but liked the presenter. Dahlquist mentioned that she had equally funny sisters, and after meeting the trio, he signed them on the spot. Now, he says, he is in discussions with four networks to have the women host a TV talk show. He hopes to have a deal wrapped up soon.

The sisters, formerly from the Bronx, N.Y., get together in this Los Angeles suburb every Wednesday for lunch and chat. Dahlquist's twin, Josie Cavaluzzi, 70, owns a hair salon nearby.

Because TV prefers to spotlight younger folks, Schotz says he decided to try to find an audience for the women online first, before meeting with networks. He started with a website and YouTube videos.

His staff taped the women talking about various things at Bartnicki's kitchen table. During one shoot, Cavaluzzi mentioned that salon customers were talking about the Kardashians and her infamous sex tape. The videographer pulled out a computer and asked the trio to watch, to get their reactions.

Two weeks later, the video was posted, and the women were collecting millions of online fans. Since then, Schotz has posted more videos of the women online, talking presidential politics, dating, Italian food and, naturally, sex.

When USA TODAY visited the trio here, Bartnicki talked about the tips she picked up from Kardashian's video ("You're never too old to learn") and her dream double date for her and Dahlquist: Carl Reiner, 90, and Mel Brooks, 85, who also happen to be widowed, like them. "We just want to talk," she says. (Cavaluzzi is still married.)

Meanwhile, Dahlquist says they're having the time of their lives. "When you're 70, you want to have fun. Otherwise, you're dead and invisible. And we're not invisible anymore."

In Celebration of His New Life

†Joseph Aldan Delos Reyes

Lovingly Known as "J.J. Onio"
Born: June 12, 1956 • Died: July 1, 2012

In His new life he now joins his:

Father: †Roman Manahane Delos Reyes
Mother: †Consolacion Aldan Delos Reyes
Mother in-law: †Margarita Camacho Muña
Brother: †Joseph Duenas Dela Rosa
Brothers in-law: †Olympio C. Muña, †Nicolas C. Muña, †Francisco C. Muña, and †Roman T. Villagomez
Sister in-law: †Levita Damaso Delos Reyes

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Margarita Muña Delos Reyes
Children and Grand Children:
Rose Cecil Muña Delos Reyes and Sylvan M. Cabrera
Sylvan Jr., Consolacion Rose, Amelia Ann, and Margaret Estella Rose
Joseph Jr. Muña Delos Reyes and Michelle Tudela
Jeffrey Roman Muña Delos Reyes and Jean Castro
Margret Rose, Alexis Jade, and Jeffrey Roman Jr.
Natte Marie Kaneshi and Family
Julian Nicolas Muña Delos Reyes and Jeding Matagolai
Frankie Kaneshi
Roman Muña Delos Reyes and Roxanne Duenas
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Antonio Aldan Delos Reyes
Thomas Aldan Delos Reyes and Arlene Muña
Frances Dela Rosa Pangelinan and Mark Pangelinan
Rudy Duenas Dela Rosa and Nora Dela Rosa
Vivian Dela Rosa Palacios and Mariano Palacios
Father in-law: Nicolas Q. Muña
Brothers and Sisters in-law:
Antonio C. Muña and Maria P. Muña
Cecilia M. Villagomez
Jesus C. Muña and Dorothy Muña
Jose C. Muña and Janet Muña
Maria M. McDill and Henry McDill
Cornelia C. Muña
Delfina C. Muña
Ana M. Sablan and Herman Sablan
Francisco C. Muña and Agnes Muña
Merced C. Muña and Isidro Sablan
Reared Son: Jerome San Agustin Reyes

He will always be remembered by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren and friends.

Daily Masses at 6:00pm, followed by the rosaries at St. Jude Church. On Monday, July 9, 2012, his remains will be transported from CHC Morgue at 9:00am to St. Jude Church. Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 11:00am and interment will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Lunch will follow at the residence of Mrs. Margarita Muña Delos Reyes.

The presence and prayers of all families and friends are greatly appreciated.

Margarita Muña Delos Reyes, Children and Grandchildren

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NOW SHOWING

Katy Perry: Part of Me

Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:05

Katy Perry
Musical • Rated PG

Synopsis

Get to know the woman behind the pop icon as singer Katy Perry brings fans behind the scenes of her California Dreams Tour in this colorful, intimate musical documentary.

The Amazing Spider-Man

Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:10

Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

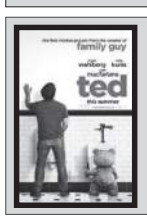
"The Amazing Spider-Man" is the story of Peter Parker (Garfield), an outcast high schooler who was abandoned by his parents as a boy, leaving him to be raised by his Uncle Ben (Sheen) and Aunt May (Field). Like most teenagers, Peter is trying to figure out who he is and how he got to be the person he is today. Peter is also finding his way with his first high school crush, Gwen Stacy (Stone), and together, they struggle with love, commitment, and secrets. As Peter discovers a mysterious briefcase that belonged to his father, he begins a quest to understand his parents' disappearance—leading him directly to Oscorp and the lab of Dr. Curt Connors (Ifans), his father's former partner. As Spider-Man is set on a collision course with Connors' alter-ego.

★ ★ ★

Magic Mike

Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:20

Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer
Comedy, Drama • Rated R



Ted

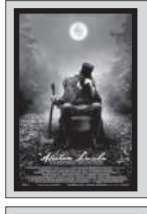
Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

Brave

Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30

Kelly MacDonald, Emma Thompson
Children's/family • Rated PG



Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter

Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00

Benjamin Walker, Mary Elizabeth Winstead
Fantasy, Action • Rated R

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted

Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG

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AP

In this film image released by Sony Pictures, Andrew Garfield portrays Peter Parker and Spider-Man in a scene from "The Amazing Spider-Man, set for release on July 3, 2012.

New 'Spider-Man' snares $7.5M in midnight shows

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The new Spider-Man has launched with the same midnight magic as the old one.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" pulled in $7.5 million from its debut screenings Tuesday just after midnight. According to distributor Sony Pictures, that matches the amount that "Spider-Man 3" took in from its first midnight screenings in 2007 on the way to what was then a record $151.1 million opening weekend.

Midnight screenings generally have become bigger business since then, hitting a peak as fans shelled out $43.5 million for midnight shows of the "Harry Potter" finale last summer.

While "The Amazing Spider-Man" is well back in the pack by comparison, its midnight debut hints at strong box office through the Fourth of July weekend, with industry expectations as high as $120 million in its first six days.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" opened last week in 13 overseas markets, pulling in about $50 million through the weekend.

The new movie is a fresh start for the Marvel Comics superhero, retelling teen orphan Peter Parker's encounter with a mutant spider whose bite endows the youth with strength, agility and heightened senses.

Andrew Garfield plays Peter, taking over from Tobey Maguire, who starred in Sony's previous three "Spider-Man" films directed by Sam Raimi. Sony and Marvel Studios went back to the drawing board after Raimi decided against returning for another sequel on his Spidey franchise.

Taylor Kitsch moves on from pair of flops to 'Savages'

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Taylor Kitsch struck out twice this year in the failed films "John Carter" and "Battleship," spoiling the "Friday Night Lights" actor's hopes to leap from TV to big-screen star.

Now, Kitsch has a third time at bat with Oliver Stone's drug-war thriller "Savages," opening Friday.

While the actor regrets the two previous movies flopped, he's actually a bit relieved that he can take jobs as they come without having to work around sequel schedules had those films developed into franchises.

"Maybe it's a blessing in disguise that it died, and I'm not tied to these things for the next 10 years," said Kitsch, 31. "I'm free to do whatever I want now. If I want to do something in January, February, March, April, I don't have to go through two studios to be greenlit."

Still, Kitsch started the year with the prospect of two studio blockbusters that could have given him steady work for years to come in the continuing adventures of Edgar Rice Burroughs' Mars hero Carter and in more tales inspired by the board game "Battleship."

With a bloated budget and fan indifference that resulted in feeble domestic box office of just $73 million, "John Carter" inflicted a $200 million loss on distributor Disney and helped precipitate the departure of the studio's chairman, Rich Ross.

Universal's "Battleship" did fair business overseas ahead of its domestic debut, but it floundered at U.S. theaters in the wake of the blockbuster receipts hauled in by "The Avengers."

Yet Kitsch doesn't regard the films as wasted efforts. "I feel I grew an immense amount as an actor. On so many levels, it tested me. I wouldn't change a thing. I wouldn't take any of those choices back," Kitsch said. "I love what I'm doing. I've started to get excited again, and I think, obviously, it was hard on me that they didn't work. You have bosses, we all have bosses, you want to do well for them. But I gave everything I had."

AP

In this Friday, June 15, 2012 photo, actor, Taylor Kitsch, who appears in Oliver Stone's new film "Savages," poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif.

That dedicated work wasn't lost on Stone, who had seen Kitsch on "Friday Night Lights" and cast him in "Savages" after catching an early cut of "Battleship."

Adapted from the novel by Don Winslow, "Savages" features Kitsch as a take-no-prisoners U.S. veteran of the war on terror, who partners with his best pal (Aaron Johnson) to run a Southern California marijuana business growing and selling the world's finest weed.

Kitsch and Johnson's characters are hurled into a bloody battle with a Mexican drug cartel in "Savages," whose cast includes Blake Lively, John Travolta, Salma Hayek and Benicio Del Toro.

"He was very masculine, a very strong and attractive guy but seemed like a solid guy, a guy who could be an ex-Afghani, Iraqi war veteran who would back his man to the end and bring his team out with him," Stone said of Kitsch.

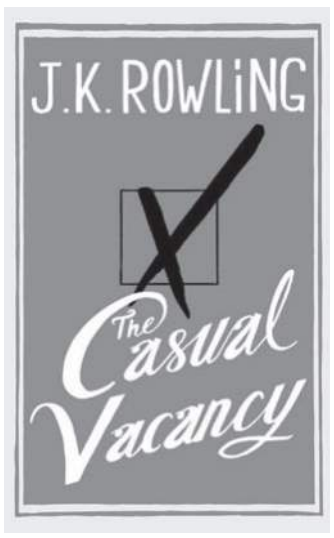
Kitsch grew up in British Columbia and got his start in Hollywood in such movies as "Snakes on a Plane" and "John Tucker Must Die" before landing a starring role on "Friday Night Lights."

Peter Berg, who directed the big-screen "Friday Night Lights" and was an executive producer on the TV spinoff, also directed Kitsch in "Battleship," and the two are reuniting for "Lone Survivor," based on the real-life story of Navy SEALs pursuing a Taliban leader.

Despite the film flops, Kitsch figures he built work relationships that might lead to roles throughout his career.

"I know personally, and this is the main thing to me that matters most, you talk to anybody I've ever worked with, ever. They will say that I'm probably the hardest-working actor you've watched in preparation, in drive, in what I put into it," Kitsch said. "I think at the end of the day, that's what matters. If you and I work together, and I go, 'Yeah, I'll go to war with you again," I think that's the ultimate compliment you can give anyone."

Here's cover of new J.K. Rowling novel



AP

This photo made available by Little, Brown Book Group Tuesday July 3, 2012 shows the cover of The Casual Vacancy, J.K. Rowling's first novel for adults.

LONDON (AP)—Publishers have released the cover of the J.K. Rowling novel set for worldwide release in September.

"The Casual Vacancy" will be the Harry Potter author's first offering aimed primarily at adults.

The novel is set in the fictional English town of Pagford and deals with the unexplained death of a village resident.

The cover released Tuesday is mostly red with a yellow border, and shows what looks like an "X" marking a box.

Little, Brown Book Group says film and stage actor Tom Hollander will record the audio version of the book.

Rowling's series about Potter, the boy wizard, made her one of the most successful authors in the world.

NY Philharmonic gets $1M gift from Baldwin

NEW YORK (AP)—Just days after tying the knot with his yoga instructor, Alec Baldwin donated $1 million to the New York Philharmonic.

The gift is in honor of outgoing President and Executive Director Zarin Mehta.

The "30 Rock" actor is a Philharmonic board member and hosts its radio show, "The New York Philharmonic This Week."

He said in a statement Monday that Mehta made his dream of becoming part of the world of classical music come true.

Mehta said Baldwin's "remarkably generous gift is just the latest in his steadfast and inspiring support" of the Philharmonic.

Baldwin

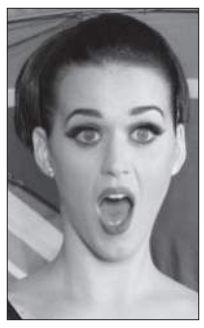
Mehta's 12-year tenure ends after the 2011-2012 season.

The Philharmonic said the gift is a donation of proceeds Baldwin received from a Capital One advertising campaign.

Baldwin married Hilaria Thomas in Manhattan on Saturday.

Vulnerable Katy Perry in European film premiere

LONDON (AP)—American pop sweetheart Katy Perry is revealing a vulnerable side as she attends the European premiere of her new film.



Perry

"Part Of Me" premieres in London on Tuesday. It's a 3-D behind-the-scenes look at the ups and downs of the 27-year-old singer's life over the past year. Having spent most of it doing a world tour, fans are treated to performances, backstage antics and the occasional breakdown.

Perry also lets the cameras follow her through the breakup of her marriage to British comedian Russell Brand.

Directed by Dan Cutforth and Jane Lipsitz, "Part Of Me" hits U.K. theaters on Thursday.

AP

In this publicity photo provided by Paramount Pictures, actor Tom Cruise, center, is Jack Reacher in film, "Jack Reacher," from Paramount Pictures and Skydance Productions.

Trailer for Cruise's next film project rolls out

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tom Cruise's personal life may be in upheaval, but it is business as usual for the studio promoting his next movie.

Paramount Pictures has released the trailer for Cruise's crime drama "Jack Reacher," which opens Dec. 21. The trailer launched on Cruise's 50th birthday with Tuesday's debut of "The Amazing Spider-Man."

The start of the movie's marketing campaign coincides with the breakup of Cruise's marriage to Katie Holmes, who filed for divorce last week.

The divorce has brought fresh scrutiny to Cruise's ties to Scientology. His beliefs played a role in Paramount's split with the actor in 2006 over his discussion of his religion and his erratic behavior regarding his romance with Holmes.

Paramount has since made up with Cruise, releasing his blockbuster "Mission: Impossible: Ghost Protocol" to a $690 million worldwide haul.

"Tom is a huge movie star for the right reason. He's a very talented actor whose movies have entertained millions of fans," Paramount said in a statement. "His ability to make a great movie, as we saw with the most recent installment in the 'Mission: Impossible' franchise—the most successful of the series to date—is the thing that moviegoers remember above all else."

Adapted from a novel by Lee Child, "Jack Reacher" stars Cruise as an ex-military investigator caught up in the case of a sniper accused of killing five people.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Jackie Chan to combat Myanmar child trafficking

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Hong Kong action star Jackie Chan is going to Myanmar this week on a three-day mission to help combat child trafficking in the Southeast Asian nation. UNICEF announced Tuesday that in his capacity as a goodwill ambassador, Chan will visit the agency's projects for supporting trafficked children under special care for trauma and distress. He also will meet with officials of the Social Welfare Ministry and members of the Myanmar Police Anti-Trafficking Task Force in Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city. The U.S. State Department's annual report on human trafficking says thousands of children in Myanmar are forced to serve in the national army and ethnic military groups. However, Myanmar signed an agreement with the United Nations last week to ban the recruitment of child soldiers and demobilize those already serving.

Madonna's tour truck overturns in Sweden

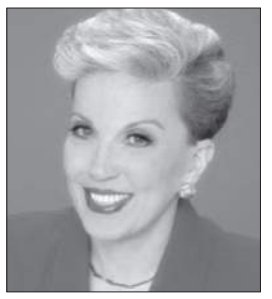
STOCKHOLM (AP)—Police say a truck carrying the sound system for Madonna's concert in southwestern Sweden has overturned and blocked parts of a highway. Police say it is not clear what caused the truck to suddenly flip onto its side while driving toward Goteborg on Tuesday morning sliding across several lanes and blocking rush hour traffic. It was not immediately clear if the incident will affect Madonna's Wednesday concert in the city. Police said one person was injured and three passenger cars damaged in the accident.

Sony to buy game streaming company Gaikai

NEW YORK (AP)—Sony is buying the video game-streaming company Gaikai for about $380 million in a bid to establish a new cloud-based gaming service. Video game streaming is not as widespread as music and movie streaming, largely because the technology is far more complicated. Games cannot be compressed into smaller files, like movies are, before they are sent over a broadband connection. And since they are interactive, video games require an immediate reaction to a player's actions so that on-screen characters can respond as expected. Gaikai's technology lets people play video games on Internet-connected devices, including mobile gadgets, computers and TV sets. Tokyo-based Sony Corp. said Monday that Gaikai will become part of its video game business, Sony Computer Entertainment.

Successful career change sours longtime friendship

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am 39, married, and a professional woman with a good income. My best friend, "Barbie," and I both went to work after high school without completing our education. However, after several years I decided to go to college and get a degree so I could change careers. It turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made. My income has more than doubled.

Barbie is obviously jealous of my new life, which affords me opportunities to travel, take vacations, and have the money to buy things I couldn't afford before. She and her family barely make ends meet. Although we have been like sisters since childhood, I now feel as if I must walk on eggshells around her—guarding my conversation lest I mention a new purchase or having time off. If something does slip out, Barbie becomes defensive and sarcastic.

Abby, I shouldn't have to apologize for my new lifestyle. I worked hard to make a change for myself. What can I do? I really like her, but this is becoming difficult.

An example: We went shopping last week. She bought only a gift she had to have for a birthday—nothing for herself. I felt uncomfortable with my purchases, even though they weren't extravagant. She made a comment to the effect that "it must be nice to be able to buy something so frivolous."

I should mention that Barbie's parents are still willing to send her through college or a tech school, even at the age of 39, but she chooses not to make the effort.

TIRED OF FEELING APOLOGETIC

DEAR TIRED: When your friend commented that it must be nice to be able to buy something frivolous, you had an opening to tell her that before you earned your degree you couldn't either, which was one of the reasons you decided it was time to change your life by returning to school. Your friend is fortunate she has parents who are able (and willing) to pay for her college education. How sad that she lacks the determination and drive to get one.

As things stand, the nature of your friendship with Barbie must change. If the relationship is to continue, you will have to forgo the shopping trips together and any references to your new lifestyle. Otherwise, they will be perceived as bragging, and the comparisons may be painful to her. Be prepared to be sensitive to that, or move on.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am the owner of a small boutique for women. My only full-time employee is everything an employer could ask for. However, she often comes in looking like she just crawled out of bed and doesn't own an iron.

What can I say to help her become more aware of her appearance? I don't want to hurt her feelings. I jokingly told her to "retire" a pair of slacks she frequently wears because they are too tight and the rear end is shiny. But this week she came in wearing them again—so evidently, she didn't get the message.

Please help. Thank you.

ANNE IN MISSOURI

DEAR ANNE: Because your employee didn't take the hint, you must be more direct with her. Explain that you expect her to dress more carefully for work because: 1. Her attire represents the image of the shop, and 2. a salesperson who is sharply dressed inspires customers to shop. Then tell her EXACTLY what you expect from her, and offer to help her coordinate some acceptable outfits—perhaps by giving her a discount on some items from the store.

If that doesn't work, consider putting together a "uniform" for her to wear when she's working. It's what some of the top designers have done in their stores.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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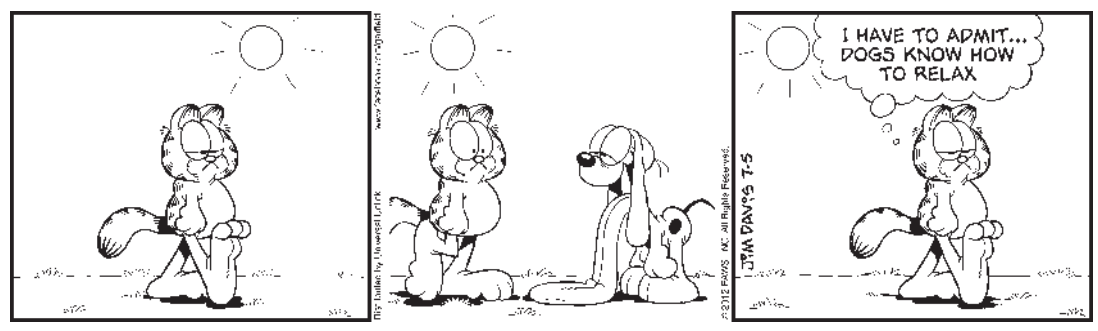
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

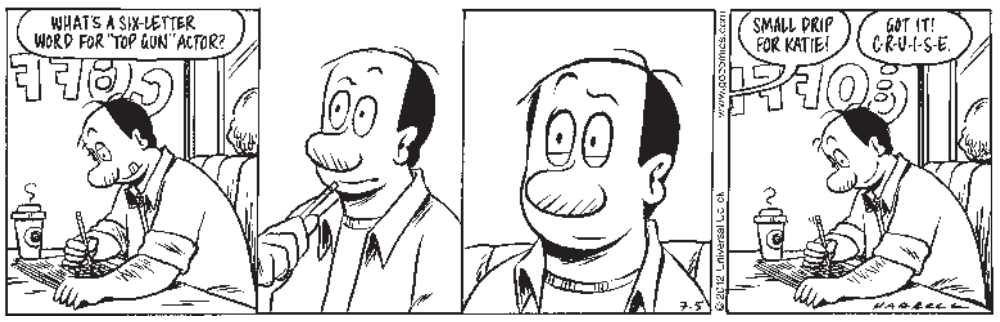
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Matterhorn, for one
4 Bankrolls
8 "Unh-unh"
12 Vast expanse
13 Others (Lat.)
14 Mountain goat
15 Bald
17 Zilch
18 Zilch
19 Lurches
21 File container
24 Restroom, for short
25 Before
26 Bathroom fixture
28 Malodorous
32 Criterion
34 Space
36 Stash
37 Black tea of India
39 That man's
41 Chaps
42 Varnish ingredient
44 Cheap and shabby
46 Cutting tool
50 Under the weather
51 Wrinkly fruit
52 Lax
56 Compared to
57 Caspian feeder
58 Try the sherry
59 Engaged in karaoke
60 Newspaper page
61 Pigpen

DOWN
1 Blond shade
2 Meadow
3 Distress-free
4 Billfold
5 Hearty brew
6 Platter
7 Cordage fiber
8 Capital of old Assyria
9 Reed instrument
10 Teller's partner
11 Old partners
16 Disencumber
20 Luftwaffe foe (Abbr.)
21 Greek salad ingredient
22 Raw minerals
23 Carpet
27 "Humbug!"
29 Eternal
30 Mid-month date
31 Say it isn't so
33 Spilling the beans
35 Snapshot
38 More, to Manuel
40 Protect
43 Chocolate source
45 Right angle
46 Shacks
47 Turkish title
48 Family
49 Distort
53 "Norma —"
54 Perch
55 Agent

Solution time: 25 mins.

J	A	G	■	M	O	P	E	■	S	O	Y	A
A	L	L	■	E	V	E	R	■	U	P	O	N
∠	O	O	■	G	A	H	G	A	N	I	U	A
Z	E	B	R	A	■	■	O	D	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	B	B	A	■	Z	A	I	R	E
G	A	H	H	I	E	L	D	■	E	V	E	N
R	I	O	■	T	R	I	C	S	■	A	N	D
I	D	O	L	■	G	A	R	M	E	N	T	S
M	F	T	A	I	■	S	N	I	P	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	O	O	■	■	L	A	U	G	H
G	A	R	I	B	A	L	D	I	■	N	A	Y
E	L	A	N	■	T	E	E	N	■	T	I	P
L	A	M	A	■	S	I	N	G	■	O	N	E

Yesterday's answer 7-5

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
■	■	18			■	19		20				
21	22				23	■	24			■	■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28		29	30	31
32			33	■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40	■	41		
■	■	■	42		43	■	44		45			
46	47	48				49	■	50			■	■
51				■	52		53				54	55
56					57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kathryn Erbe, 47; Edie Falco, 49; Huey Lewis, 62; Shirley Knight, 76.

Happy Birthday: Give-and-take will get you ahead. Good fortune is in your corner and will manifest through the most unusual sources. Greater effort in your personal life will bring results both domestically and professionally. There is money to be made, and the development of skills, ideas and business plans will pay off. Your numbers are 1, 9, 13, 22, 30, 36, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your changing attitude will encourage you to take on an unusual task. Fixing something you can put to good use now will save you money. An idea you have will entice someone you want to spend more time with to get involved. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You are prone to make a poor decision. Hard work and discipline are what you will need to advance. A problem at home will make it difficult to concentrate on important work matters. A change of scenery will do you good. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Think big, and you will encourage someone to get involved in your plan. High energy and lots of interaction with others will lead to success. Suggestions will be worth considering. A profitable venture is apparent. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Dealing with institutions, agencies or authority figures will present problems. Don't get angry with the wrong person. Size up your situation calmly and you'll find a better way to handle whatever you face. Secret activities will cause uncertainty. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will invite change and excitement into your life if you participate in an activity or organization that offers mental or physical stimulation. Exposure to different cultures or ideas will help broaden your viewpoint. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't push your luck at work or where your reputation is concerned. Someone will want to make you look bad, and given the chance, it can affect your ability to advance. Honesty will be necessary. Keep talks short, simple and succinct. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be very entertaining. People will want to be part of whatever you do. Travel plans are encouraged, even if it is a short trip that will take you somewhere you've never been. New experiences will stimulate fresh ideas. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): When money is involved, you are best to take a pass. Keep your assets, possessions and cash in a safe place. Not everyone will be forthright regarding intentions. Moving forward with projects on your own will bring higher returns. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't alter or embellish any information you are passing along. Clear and concise talks will bring all sorts of benefits in the end. A partnership with someone who thinks big and is determined to excel will lead to greater prosperity. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Listen, but don't make a move until you are positive you have all the facts and figures straight. You stand to lose if you are too gullible. Impulsive moves or rash statements will cost you emotionally or financially. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Spend more time at home or interacting with the people you know and love most. Working toward a greater goal or your own small enterprise will bring you rewards. Cut your costs by making changes to your living arrangements. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be careful not to go after something or someone for the wrong reasons. Your motives have to be geared toward a positive outcome for everyone involved if you are going to be successful. Strive for equality in any partnership you form. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, intelligent, creative and innovative. You are progressive and trendy.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5				9				6
			6			8		
	6	2		1		5		
				3			2	
9		7				6		4
	2			8				
		1		6		3	8	
					4			
		9						
6				2				1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	7	8	6	3	2	5	9
2	5	8	9	7	1	6	4	3
3	6	9	5	4	2	1	8	7
4	7	1	3	2	5	9	6	8
8	2	3	4	9	6	7	1	5
6	9	5	1	8	7	4	3	2
9	1	4	7	3	8	5	2	6
5	3	2	6	1	9	8	7	4
7	8	6	2	5	4	3	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ALL ABOUT BLADES **Solution: 7 letters**

S	S	W	A	R	T	I	F	A	C	T	S	S	G	W
U	T	E	E	N	E	L	I	G	H	T	W	P	N	I
R	E	A	L	N	G	L	I	R	A	Z	O	R	I	D
G	E	P	I	E	G	L	L	H	D	B	R	O	T	T
I	L	O	E	N	N	E	E	O	R	U	D	P	T	H
C	D	N	F	Ⓔ	L	G	R	U	R	S	L	E	U	E
A	E	B	I	Ⓓ	L	E	T	U	P	P	I	L	C	L
L	E	L	N	Ⓖ	E	E	S	H	O	O	R	L	A	I
U	N	A	K	Ⓔ	R	T	R	S	R	R	E	E	R	C
M	I	D	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	T	V	R	V	A
I	F	E	W	S	P	E	A	R	H	S	A	E	E	L
N	A	S	C	I	S	S	O	R	S	K	H	G	I	O
U	R	C	H	O	P	O	I	N	T	C	S	G	W	O
M	A	C	H	I	N	E	S	T	R	I	M	A	O	T
L	A	T	E	M	I	U	R	A	P	P	E	D	B	N

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Aluminum, Angle, Artifact, Blades, Bowie, Carve, Chop, Clip, Cutting, Dagger, Diamond, Drop, Dull, Edge, Fine, Helical, Hilt, Knife, Length, Light, Machines, Metal, Miura, Needle, Peeler, Picks, Point, Propeller, Razor, Roller, Rust, Scissors, Shaver, Spare, Spear, Sports, Stainless, Steel, Surgical, Sword, Tool, Trim, Turbo, Weapon, Wenger, Width, Wiper

Yesterday's Answer: Hot Stuff

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Massage Shop on Guam. sale for business (not real estate) well populated area. $10,000. call 671-727-8447 or send inquiry to tropicisla@hotmail.com

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Anaks Condo, 2BRs, washer/dryer, ceiling fans, a/c, storage, r/o water, swimming pool, tennis court, gated, 24/7 security. Ideal location, close to central Garapan. Call Ron Barrineau 322-4758 or 483-4785.

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Saipan Tribune

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution: Attaché case

Job Vacancy Announcement
SAIPAN AUTO CLINIC COMPANY
is looking for
1- Radiator Repairer
Minimum wage. Must have at least 1 year work experience.
Interested Qualified US Workers can fax resume to 235-7742.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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is in need of (1) Cook

- Candidate must have at least 1 year in food service as a cook.
- Must be knowledgeable in cooking breakfast foods and other cuisines.
- Must be flexible in work schedule i.e. early morning, afternoon and late evening/weekends/holidays.

Interested applicants may submit resume with picture, police clearance, employment certificate and work recommendation by person to

Java Joe's in Dan Dan.
PMB 668 PO BOX 10,000
Saipan MP 96950

No phone calls will be entertained.

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(1) BODY REPAIRMAN / WELDER
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APPLY OR SEND RESUME TO SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL CORP.
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LOWER BASE OR CALL 322-1558/1988

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Yu Ping J. Angui, Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0245
vs.	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
David Angui, Respondent,	)	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 2812 BOX 10002, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

DATED, this 12th day of June, 2012:

/s/ Clerk of Court

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Deron Williams takes Nets' $98 million deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Deron Williams is moving to Brooklyn with the Nets, instead of back home to Dallas.

The All-Star point guard said on his Twitter page Tuesday night that he "made a very tough decision today" and posted a picture of the Nets' new team logo that accompanies their move from New Jersey to Brooklyn.

A person with knowledge of the decision said Williams told the team he was accepting their five-year contract worth $98 million. The person confirmed the agreement on condition of anonymity because contracts can't be signed until July 11.

Williams, the top free agent available, chose to stay with the Nets over signing with the Mavericks, who hoped they could convince him to come back to the area where he grew up.

It's a huge triumph for the Nets as they prepare to move into the new Barclays Center to start the 2012-13 season. They gave up an enormous package to get Williams in a surprising February 2011 trade, sending promising forward Derrick Favors, point guard Devin Harris, two first-round draft picks and cash to the Utah Jazz.

But it was worth it for the Nets, who needed a franchise player with them to build buzz for their move to New York.

Williams wanted to make a quick decision before he reports to training camp in Las Vegas with the U.S. men's basketball team on Thursday. He met with both teams Monday, the day after free agency opened, and made his Twitter posting at about 7 p.m. ET.

Williams' decision comes a day after the Nets agreed to a deal with Atlanta for All-Star guard Joe Johnson, and amid reports they are still hoping to make a deal with Orlando for Dwight Howard. Brooklyn also has a deal in place to re-sign versatile free agent forward Gerald Wallace.

Just two years after a 70-loss season, the Nets will have one of the NBA's best backcourts and are poised to make a quick move up the Eastern Conference standings.

Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavericks had spoken openly about their desire to bring Williams back to North Texas, where he starred at The Colony High School. Mark Cuban's team never made much attempt to defend its 2011 NBA title, letting key players such as Tyson Chandler and J.J. Barea leave through free agency so the Mavs could save money for this summer.

But Dallas could only offer Williams a four-year deal worth about $75 million under the terms of the new collective bargaining agreement. And with the Nets' flurry of moves, may not even be able to offer a better team anymore.

Williams averaged 21 points and 8.7 assists last season and had a 57-point game. One of the league's top point guards since entering the NBA as the No. 3 pick of the Jazz in 2005, he was ahead of his competitors when last season started after playing in Turkey during the lockout.

The Jazz decided to deal him at the 2011 deadline after a clash with former Utah coach Jerry Sloan, and without knowing if Williams would stay there long-term. The Nets had just been stung when the Knicks beat them to acquire Carmelo Anthony from Denver, and the Nets bounced back the next day by landing Williams.

Williams didn't always seem to enjoy playing in New Jersey, with the Nets spending the last two seasons in a temporary home in Newark. But he should play in front of packed crowds in Brooklyn as the main attraction at the Barclays Center.

AP

In this April 6, 2012, file photo, New Jersey Nets' Deron Williams (8) shoots during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards in Newark, N.J.

Source: Gordon agrees to max deal with Suns

PHOENIX (AP)—Restricted free agent guard Eric Gordon has agreed to a four-year deal with the Phoenix Suns worth about $58 million, a person familiar with the talks told The Associated Press. The New Orleans Hornets have the right to match the deal and keep Gordon.

Gordon was in Phoenix on Tuesday, meeting with the Suns' front office. The agreement to the offer sheet was confirmed by a person who spoke on condition of anonymity because free agent acquisitions can't be revealed publicly until next week, according to NBA rules.

The Suns also have had meetings this week with forward Michael Beasley and guard Goran Dragic as they prepare for life after Steve Nash.

There have been several sign-and-trade speculations regarding Nash, who is an unrestricted free agent who seems ever more unlikely to return to Phoenix.

The agreement with Gordon first was reported Tuesday night by *The Arizona Republic* and ESPN.

Gordon, given a huge welcome by Suns employees, told the *Republic* after his meeting with the Suns that "Phoenix is where my heart is now" and he hoped the Hornets would not match the offer. The Suns can sign Gordon to the offer sheet on July 11 and New Orleans would have three days to match.

Gordon, 23, played the first of his four NBA season with the Los Angeles Clippers after being the seventh pick overall out of Indiana in 2008. He came to the Hornets before the start of last season as part of the trade that sent Chris Paul to the Clippers.

The sharpshooter has a career scoring average of 18.2 points per game, topped by 22.3 in 2010-11. He missed all but nine games of last season with an injury to his right knee that required arthroscopic surgery.

The meetings with Beasley and Dragic, a former Sun traded by Phoenix to Houston, highlight the team's search for a starting point guard ahead of first-round draft pick Kendall Hunter.

While Nash is a free agent, the only way several would-be suitors, including the New York Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers, would only be able to afford him would be to arrange a sign-and-trade deal with Phoenix.

Nash reportedly has received a lucrative offer to go to his native Canada and play for the Toronto Raptors.

NFL denies appeals of bounty suspensions

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has rejected the appeals of four players suspended in connection with the league's bounty investigation of the New Orleans Saints.

In a ruling handed down on Tuesday, Goodell told Jonathan Vilma, Anthony Hargrove, Will Smith and Scott Fujita that each of them is still welcome to meet with him to give their side of the story, and that he reserves the right to reduce the suspensions should new information be brought forth.

Instead, however, the players intend to fight Goodell's rulings through the federal court system.

The players have declined to meet with Goodell because they have argued that Goodell lacked the jurisdiction to rule in the matter and has violated the spirit of the league's Collective Bargaining Agreement by making public statements about the case that demonstrated he could not be a neutral arbitrator.

The players likely would have relinquished those legal arguments had they met with the commissioner to defend themselves through the NFL's regular disciplinary process.

Vilma, who was suspended for the entire 2012 season, has already filed two separate lawsuits in the matter in federal court in New Orleans. One is a defamation lawsuit against Goodell himself. The other, which named the NFL as a defendant, asks for a temporary injunction that would allow Vilma to continue working while other related legal matters play out.

The NFL Players Association also hinted at legal action on Tuesday, saying in a written statement that it "will continue to pursue all options."

"The players are disappointed with the league's conduct during this process," the union's statement said. "We reiterate our concerns about the lack of fair due process, lack of integrity of the investigation and lack of the jurisdictional authority to impose discipline under the collective bargaining agreement.

"Moreover, the commissioner took actions during this process that rendered it impossible for him to be an impartial arbitrator."

The NFL says its investigation found that Saints players paid into a system, run by former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams form 2009 to 2011, that offered improper cash payments to teammates who injured targeted opponents.

Vilma and Smith, who is suspended four games, are still with the Saints. Hargrove, now with Green Bay, was suspended eight games, while Fujita, who joined Cleveland in 2010, was suspended three games. Only Vilma's suspension is effective immediately, while the other three players are able to participate in training camp.

Because Vilma is rehabilitating a left knee injury at the Saints' training headquarters, he is seeking a quick ruling on his request in federal court for a temporary injunction.

Vilma's attorney, Peter Ginsburg, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Goodell's latest ruling.

Fujita, a member of the NFLPA's executive committee, said he was not surprised by Goodell's decision, but that he still hoped for "a process that leads to a fair resolution and gets whole truth on the table."

Fujita has called the bounty probe a "smear campaign," and all four punished players have denied paying teammates to injure opponents.

So far, the NFLPA already has challenged Goodell's authority to hear player appeals before two system arbitrators, who both ruled in favor of Goodell, citing language in the league's labor agreement that gives the commissioner that authority.

Now the union must try to convince a federal judge otherwise.

The NFL has said more than 20 current or former Saints players participated in the bounty program, but that Vilma, Smith and Fujita were punished because they were defensive leaders who contributed large amounts to a pool that paid for big plays as well as injury-causing hits. The league said Hargrove was punished for obstructing the investigation when first interviewed by investigators in 2010.

Goodell said he did not take his initial decision lightly and pointed out that players did not help their cause by refusing to participate fully in the appeal process.

Vilma and Ginsberg walked out of a June 16 appeal hearing early after Ginsberg raised his objections to the NFL's handling of the entire investigation. The other three players, who were represented by NFLPA attorneys, sat through the hearing to observe the NFL's presentation of evidence, but refused to present any evidence or witnesses of their own, and did not question the NFL investigators who were present at the hearing.

"Although you claimed to have been `wrongfully accused with insufficient evidence,' your lawyers elected not to ask a single question of the principal investigators, both of whom were present at the hearing," Goodell wrote in his appeal ruling. "You elected not to testify or to make any substantive statement, written or oral, in support of your appeal; you elected not to call a single witness to support your appeal; and you elected not to introduce a single exhibit addressing the merits of your appeal. Instead, your lawyers raised a series of jurisdictional and procedural objections that generally ignore" the collective bargaining agreement.

The NFL has already punished the Saints harshly as an organization, concluding that general manager Mickey Loomis and head coach Sean Payton failed to put a stop to Williams' bounty system despite warnings from the league at the end of the 2009 season.

The NFL suspended Payton for the whole season. Loomis is suspended the first half of next season, while Saints assistant head coach Joe Vitt was suspended for the first six games. Goodell also docked the Saints second-round draft picks this year and next and fined the club $500,000.

Williams, now with St. Louis, is suspended indefinitely.

Serena beats defending champion at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Thanks to a bit of advice from her big sister and a bunch of aces from her big serve, Serena Williams is back in the Wimbledon semifinals.

With two more victories, Williams will be holding a Grand Slam trophy for the first time in two years.

The thud of racket-against-ball reverberating under the closed Centre Court roof, Williams smacked 13 aces at up to 120 mph and overpowered defending champion Petra Kvitova 6-3, 7-5 in the quarterfinals Tuesday at the All England Club.

Beforehand, Williams' father and coach, Richard, asked his other title-winning daughter to relay some suggestions.

"I went and had Venus talk to her, because Venus can get (through) to Serena better than anyone in the world. So I told Venus, `I'm not going to talk to her. You talk to her.' So Venus went and talked to her. When the match was over, I told her, `Venus: Good coaching! Good coaching!'" Dad said after snapping photos of Serena's victory from his front-row perch in the guest box above a scoreboard.

"I wanted Serena to move her feet a little bit more and to not concentrate on what the girl's doing, but concentrate exactly on what she wished to do," he continued. "And that was the only message."

Consider it delivered.

The 30-year-old Williams, bidding to become the first woman at least that age to win a major title since Martina Navratilova at Wimbledon in 1990, turned in her best performance of the tournament against her most difficult opponent. After being stretched to 9-7 and 7-5 third sets against less-accomplished women in the two previous rounds, the No. 6-seeded Williams was on top of things from the get-go against No. 4 Kvitova.

"You can't play a defending Wimbledon champion or Grand Slam champion and not elevate your game," said Williams, who produced 27 winners and only 10 unforced errors. "I had to weed out the riffraff and just get serious."

Kvitova had won 16 of her last 17 matches at Wimbledon, including 11 in a row since a loss to Williams in the 2010 semifinals. Two days later, Williams went on to win the championship—her fourth at Wimbledon, her 13th at a Grand Slam tournament and her most recent to date.

Within a week, Williams cut her feet on glass at a restaurant, leading to a series of health problems, including being hospitalized for clots in her lungs, then the removal of a pocket of blood under the skin on her stomach.

On Thursday, Williams will play No. 2 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, the reigning Australian Open champion, who defeated unseeded Tamira Paszek 6-3, 7-6 (4) under the roof at night to reach the Wimbledon semifinals for the second straight year. The other semifinal will be No. 3 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland against No. 8 Angelique Kerber of Germany.

A little before 10 p.m. on Centre Court, Radwanska finished her 7-5, 4-6, 7-5 victory over No. 17 Maria Kirilenko—whose boyfriend, two-time NHL MVP Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals, was in the stands. Earlier, the match was forced off Court 1 because of showers, tied 4-all in the third set.

"Today was for me, like, 40 hours," Radwanska said after reaching her first Grand Slam semifinal. "I was on and off all the time, waiting pretty much all day."

AP

Serena Williams of the United States reacts after winning against Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic during a quarterfinals match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, England, Tuesday, July 3, 2012.

Kerber was a 6-3, 6-7 (7), 7-5 winner over No. 15 Sabine Lisicki in an all-German matchup. Lisicki saved three match points in the second set, but then let a 5-3 lead slip away in the third against Kerber, also a semifinalist at last year's U.S. Open.

Williams owns, by far, the best resume of any woman in action Tuesday. She was participating in her 33rd major quarterfinal; the other seven players have been in a total of 29.

With more rain in the forecast, the roof could be shut again Wednesday, when the men's quarterfinals are No. 1 Novak Djokovic vs. No. 31 Florian Mayer, No. 3 Roger Federer vs. Mikhail Youzhny, No. 4 Andy Murray vs. No. 7 David Ferrer, and No. 5 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga vs. No. 27 Philipp Kohlschreiber.

While defending champion Djokovic, six-time champion Federer and Youzhny got a chance to rest Tuesday—particularly important for Federer, whose back ached during his fourth-round victory—everyone else slogged through a start-stop-start-stop afternoon of rain delays with the temperature in the low 60s.

The last two American men in the draw were beaten: 10th-seeded Mardy Fish wasted the one-set lead he built before play was suspended Monday and lost to Tsonga 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-4, and 126th-ranked qualifier Brian Baker's surprising run ended against Kohlschreiber 6-1, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

"I went to bed last night, and I thought I could maybe win the tournament, the way I was playing," said Fish, who hadn't played a match in 2 1/2 months before Wimbledonbecause of an accelerated heartbeat.

Murray eliminated No. 16 Marin Cilic 7-5, 6-2, 6-3 to prolong Britain's hopes for its first male champion at Wimbledon since 1936; Ferrer easily got past No. 9 Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 to earn his debut trip to the quarterfinals at the All England Club; Mayer defeated No. 18 Richard Gasquet 6-3, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 to return to the round of eight for the first time since 2004.

"I can play everything. I can play serve-and-volley. I can play drop shots. I can play with slice. I can play fast. So I will try to irritate him, maybe, a little bit," Mayer said about Djokovic. "You never know in tennis. Everything is possible."

Sean Rodriguez keys Rays win over the Yankees

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Sean Rodriguez hit a go-ahead two-run homer, helping the Tampa Bay Rays continue their home dominance over the New York Yankees in a 7-4 victory over the American League East leaders on Tuesday.

Rodriguez, mired in a 17 for 100 slump dating back to May 21, finished with 3 for 4.

Blue Jays 6, Royals 3

In Toronto, Adam Lind hit a three-run homer and Brett Cecil won for the first time in three starts as Toronto beat Kansas City.

Lind's sixth homer was the big blow in Toronto's six-run fourth inning. The win put the Blue Jays over .500 at 41-40 at the midpoint of the season.

Indians 9, Angels 5

In Cleveland, rookie Zach McAllister lasted six innings, overcoming a throwing error and two home runs in the fifth, while Shelley Duncan homered in Cleveland's win over the Los Angeles Angels.

McAllister (3-1) allowed three earned runs and eight hits, and he and the Indians recovered after blowing a four-run lead.

White Sox 19, Rangers 2

In Chicago, Kevin Youkilis, Adam Dunn and Alex Rios homered in the first inning off Roy Oswalt, and All-Star Chris Sale won his 10th game as Chicago routed Texas.

Playing in his first home game with the White Sox since his trade from Boston on June 24, Youkilis had three hits and drove in four runs in a meeting of division leaders that saw Chicago score its most runs this season.

Twins 8, Tigers 6

In Detroit, Josh Willingham and Trevor Plouffe hit homers in a five-run third and Ryan Doumit had a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the seventh inning, lifting Minnesota over Detroit.

Joe Mauer had three hits, including a solo homer to lead off the ninth that gave the Twins a two-run lead and helped earn a season-high, five-game winning streak.

Athletics 3, Red Sox 2

In Oakland, California, Coco Crisp hit a game-ending sacrifice fly to go with his leadoff homer in the first innings as Oakland rallied to beat Boston.

The A's got singles from Chris Carter and Brandon Hicks before pinch-hitter Brandon Moss' tying single against Alfredo Aceves (0-6). Then Crisp delivered his third career walkoff RBI and Oakland's first game-ending sacrifice fly since Dan Johnson had one May 15, 2007, against Kansas City.

Orioles 5, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Robert Andino homered in the ninth inning off Seattle reliever Charlie Furbush to give Baltimore a win after starter Chen Wei-yin flirted with a perfect game for more than six innings.

Andino's home run was his first since May 7 and fourth this season. It ended Furbush's (4-2) streak of 22 2-3 scoreless innings, the third longest by a reliever in Mariners history.

Brewers 13, Marlins 12

In Milwaukee, Aramis Ramirez hit a two-run homer off Heath Bell in the bottom of the 10th inning to lift the Milwaukee Brewers to a win over the Miami Marlins.

Livan Hernandez (2-1) pitched the 10th and picked up the win. He struck out John Buck, got Scott Cousins to fly out to center, but Jose Reyes connected on a 3-1 pitch and homered into the second tier above the Marlins bullpen in right. Donovan Solano struck out to end the inning.

Pirates 8, Astros 7

In Pittsburgh, Drew Sutton hit a one-out solo homer in the bottom of the ninth as Pittsburgh improved to eight games over .500 for the first time in 20 years with a win over Houston.

Acquired via waivers last week, Sutton homered for the first time since Oct. 3, 2010, lifting the Pirates to their sixth walkoff win of the season, the second via a home run.

Mets 11, Phillies 1

In New York, Jonathon Niese had a two-run single to back his fine performance on the mound Tuesday as David Wright hit a three-run homer to break open New York's romp over Philadelphia.

Niese (7-3) pitched a season-high eight innings and gave up three hits, one a homer to Carlos Ruiz. His hit in the second inning put New York up for good.

Nationals 9, Giants 3

In Washington, All-Star shortstop Ian Desmond hit his 14th home run, as Washington became the latest team to beat up on Tim Lincecum, pounding the struggling right-hander hard early and often.

The opener of the three-game series between first-place teams was barely a contest. Jordan Zimmermann (5-6) pitched a rain-shortened six innings and again enjoyed the generous run support that had evaded him for so long.

Braves 10, Cubs 3

In Atlanta, newly chosen All-Star Chipper Jones delivered his first five-hit game in a decade, driving in four runs to lead Atlanta over Chicago.

Jones was added to the NL All-Star roster before the game. The 40-year-old third baseman replaced injured Dodgers outfielder Matt Kemp.

Rockies 3, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Jeff Francis worked five solid innings before the Colorado bullpen took over and Tyler Colvin hit a three-run homer in a win over St. Louis.

Matt Holliday hit his 14th homer for the Cardinals. Carlos Beltran was 0 for 3 with a walk to end a nine-game RBI streak in which he drove in 15 runs.

Padres 9, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Chase Headley doubled in three runs as San Diego roughed up Arizona rookie Trevor Bauer in his home debut, winning its fourth straight and sending the Diamondbacks to their fourth loss in a row.

Padres starter Andrew Cashner left the game after two innings with a strained muscle in his right side. Leading 2-0 at the time, the Padres scored five in the fourth to break the game open.

Reds 3, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Luis Cruz doubled home the go-ahead run in his second game with Los Angeles and stole home on the next pitch, leading the Dodgers to a victory over Johnny Cueto and Cincinnati.

It was 1-1l in the seventh inning when James Loney singled with one out. Cruz followed with a drive to the gap in left-center and Loney barely getting his foot on the plate after catcher Ryan Hanigan stuck out his left leg to block him.

Guerrero, Tudela duel for Amigo's June Ace honors

Terry Guerrero and Joe Tudela will be settling the score to see who will be awarded the Amigo Golf Club's June Ace of the Month this Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The pair ended up tied with identical net scores of 146 after the conclusion of the club's qualifying and final rounds held last on June 10 at the in Talafofo golf course.

Guerrero shot a 45 on the front nine and finished the backside with a 44 for a gross tally of 89 that adjusted into a field-low 68 net qualifying score back.

She then jotted down a 52 on the front and a 47 on the back nine in last Sunday's final round for a net score of 146 after the second handicap adjustment.

Tudela qualified just a stroke behind her and ended up tied with Guerrero after completion of Sunday's round.

On June 10, he posted a 41 at the turn and came to the clubhouse with an even 40 for a raw total of 81 that worked into a 69 net card, and then shot a 42 on the front nine and finished with 47 for an overall net total of 146 on Sunday.

Third place finisher Diding Hocog just missed being part of a three-way tie by just one stroke.

Guerrero and Tudela will be paired with one another in Amigo's July Ace qualifier, scheduled for this Sunday, July 8, at the Kingfisher Golf Links, where their front nine net scores will determine who wins the June Ace honors.

The winner will be included in the club's season's ending Ace of Aces tournament. Amigo's final round is scheduled for July 22 also at Kingfisher.

There are over 20 active Amigo members and new players are always welcome.

For more information, contact John Guerrero at 287-6352, Joe Sablan Jr. at 322-1177, or Lorraine Babauta at 989-7732. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

CNMI

From Page 28

it had a lot of mustard on it as found a way through the third baseman's glove.

Lancaster Secharmidal then bunted a beauty to the left side that reloaded the bases and Frankie Lieto kept it going with an RBI blooper to shallow left field. The loft was ruled a fielder's choice, where everybody was safe, however an extra run came in to score on the play.

A.J. Lizama stepped in next and bagged an RBI base rip to center field and Kaipat was issued another free pass that juiced the bases once again.

Henry Rabauliman was then plunked for a bonus run, after which Saralu cracked a three-RBI double over the left fielder's head. He was later driven in by Ada before Thailand could stop the bleeding.

Needless to say although the CNMI was only credited with four hits, they capitalized on them with a whole bunch of hustle.

CNMI hurler Secharmidal was set on cruise control and orchestrated three 1-2-3 innings from the mound to keep the CNMI comfortably in control.

The CNMI then added two runs in the third inning off an error and an RBI double by Saralu and finished the game with two more in the fifth from an RBI base smash by Rabualiman and a freebie RBI walk with ducks on the pond.

The CNMI's Jeffrey Lizama tapped Secharmedal to close the last two innings and did a good job preserving the shutout.

Saralu batted 2-for-3 with four RBIs, two runs, and a hit by pitch.

In related news, the CNMI Big League All-Stars were also playing in Guam, but had a bye last night and are scheduled to play the Philippines today (Thursday) at 5:15pm. Guam makes up the rest of the field.

The Big League's three-team format is set up as a double-round robin where the team with the best record is declared the champion; mandatory play rules are not effect for this age group.

In addition, the CNMI Junior All-Stars advanced to the championship game in its own ASPAC event, which is being held in Nha Trang City in Vietnam's Khanh Hoa province.

After starting strong with a pair of wins over Hong Kong (1-2) and host team Vietnam (0-3), the CNMI notched its third straight victory over the Philippines (1-2), 3-2, Monday.

According to the www.littleleague.org website they finished pool play with a 3-0 win-loss record and advanced to today's 11am (Vietnam time) championship match where they will take on defending champion Taipei (3-0). Indonesia (1-2) was also in the race.

The CNMI Major All-Stars, meanwhile, defeated Thailand (1-1), 10-6, on Monday, but bowed to Australia (1-0) on Tuesday, 5-9. They were on a bye yesterday (Wednesday) and are scheduled to play Korea (1-0) today before finishing its pool play games tomorrow against Indonesia (0-2).

The CNMI and its opponents reside in Pool B, while Pool A is made up of defending champions Taipei (2-0) along with the Philippines (1-1), Hong Kong (1-0), Guam (0-1), and New Zealand (0-2).

Saturday's semifinals will feature the top ranked B team taking on the second ranked A squad, followed by the second ranked A team against the first place B group. The championship is scheduled for Sunday preceded by the consolation match.

Senior ground rules

In the Senior League, the team with the best record after five games is declared the champion.

However, since there are an uneven number of teams, one team was selected to play six matches with the results of one of the games not being counted against them.

As it turns out, the CNMI was the randomly selected team and will be the only squad without a rest day. During an organizational meeting held Tuesday evening at Hotel Nikko Guam, the CNMI drew the fifth game on its schedule, which happens to be against Guam on Sunday, as the matchup that will not affect its win-loss record.

The game is still important though because the point differential of the extra game may affect the overall outcome, if the CNMI ends up involved in a tiebreaker situation after the conclusion of pool play.

Moreover, according to the tiebreaker formula, allowing less runs is more important than merely running up the score(s) throughout the week.

This basically means that, all in all, the CNMI is playing with added risks of injury and exhaustion of its pitching corps, but the team is hardly discouraged about its circumstances.

"Not having the bye is a challenge, but I am more concerned with getting off to a good start in effort to set the tone for our team. If we can get rolling early hopefully we can increase our momentum as the tournament progresses," said team manager Derron Flores at the meeting.

Flores admitted that drawing the fifth game as the asterisk match can end up being a good thing, but insists that the team is taking it one game at a time.

He must also be extra careful in regards to satisfying the tourney's mandatory play rules. These rules basically stipulate that every player must play six outs in addition to getting in one full at-bat in every game. Naturally, pitching depth is a concern, but Flores is confident in his players.

DYS

From Page 28

The match was still tied at 16-all, going into the final two minutes of the second period, before MDX/Mariana Resort closed out the first half with a 10-1 run. Hi-Five/POWER committed several turnovers in the closing minutes, while MDX/Mariana Resort turned those errors into points. Melvin Cadiang scored the most points in the rally, making 5 straight markers and giving MDX/Mariana Resort a 27-17 halftime advantage.

Hi-Five/POWER, which kept MDX/Mariana Resort at bay in the opening period and even took the lead after the first 10 minutes of play, 12-10, was held to 5 points in the second canto. It was scoreless in the first four minutes of the second frame before Gary Macahito made a layup and another 2-pointer. Franklin Macahito scored the other point for Hi-Five/POWER off a split free throw.

After a poor performance in the closing minutes of the second canto, Hi-Five/POWER scored the first basket in the third off Ariel Urbano's long jumper, but Cadiang answered with a triple to keep MDX's double-digit advantage.

MDX/Mariana Resort never looked back from thereon and padded the lead with its much deeper bench contributing at least one basket each in the second half. Hi-Five/POWER failed to make a big comeback in the second half, as its outside shooting was not there and only Donald Hockett and Franklin Macahito scored in twin digits. Reynald Cabaltica, who is a known scorer in the MISO caging, only contributed a deuce, as he came in late for the game, arriving at the 2:10 mark of the third, while Urbano was held to 8 points.

In the first game, DYS/Bayani leaned on its balance offense to survive SIP and John Darag's 30-point explosion.

DYS/Bayani had four players scoring in double figure and three others combining for 19. Jaymark De Guzman logged 23 points, Nevin Salem added 17 and Josephus Aguilar and Chris Mizer tallied 13 and 12, respectively. Jimmy Tudela chipped in 7 and Paul Mariano and Jack Aranda had 6 apiece.

Aranda drained 4 of his total points in the fourth, including Bayani's last two buckets that sealed the win, while Mariano and Aguilar combined for 11 in the final canto.

Darag had 10 in the fourth period, but lacked support from his teammates, as Erick Dela Rosa was only the second SIP player to score in twin digits with 16.

First Game

DYS/Bayani 93 – De Guzman 23, Salem 17, Aguilar 13, Mizer 12, Tudela 7, Mariano 6, Aranda 6, Villanueva 4, Camacho 4.

SIP/Barney's 85 – Darag 30, Dela Rosa 16, Maranan 8, Metran 8, Francisco 5, Moran 4, Vertudez 4, Sacramento 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-16, 46-41, 70-61, 93-85.

Second Game

MDX/Marianas Resort 62 – Cadiang 22, Hossain 11, Manglona 6, Palacios 6, De Leon 4, Caro 2, Benavente 2, Del Rosario 2, Mettao 2, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Hi-Five/POWER 45 – F. Macahito 15, Hockett 10, Urbano 8, G. Macahito 6, Cabaltica 2, Cristobal 2, Atalig 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-12, 27-17, 52-32, 62-45.

SWEEP

From Page 28

left off, firing four goals in their fourth win in as many games in the five-team league.

Thoensaket had a hat-trick in the first half, while Tanapon Unsa and Thanyakorn Konkoed added one goal each to give Wild Bill's a 5-3 halftime lead. Otsuka Masatoshi made twin goals, while Dale Roberts chipped in one to keep Godfather's afloat in the first half.

Masatoshi was not yet done and nailed three more goals, however he got none from his teammates, while three different players scored for Wild Bill's in the final half. Thoensaket got his fourth goal, while Adul Detolon and Lar Wonparya made it to the scoreboard, too.

With the win, Wild Bill's strengthened its hold to the top spot, two victories ahead of Godfather's (2-0-1 win/draw/loss). Shirley's (1-0-1), IT&E (0-0-2), and Go Green (0-0-3) complete the field.

In the women's division, Shirley's notched its third straight win after beating IT&E Awesome, 6-2.

Shirley's is now on top of the six-team field with its 3-0-1 record, while IT&E remained at fifth place with its 1-0-3 card.

Ira Palero and Irish Pagarao logged two goals apiece for Shirley's, while Yvonne Indalencio and Marie Javier chipped in one each. Laarni Zapanta and Jayda Mendoza scored one goal each for IT&E Awesome.

Meanwhile, action in the summer league will resume tomorrow with Astig facing Mean Machine in the boys U18 match at 6:30pm and IT&E Awesome battling Wild Bill's in the women's game at 7:30pm.

Astig holds an unbeaten 2-0-0 record in the boys U18 division, sharing the lead with IT&E, while Mean Machine is still winless in three games. Wild Bill's is in second place in the women's league with its 2-2-0 card.

SAKUDI

From Page 28

vie Omar was next at bat and singles, while Lani Camacho advanced off an error, but was later tagged out at third, giving Sakudi the win.

Camacho led Sakudi with her 5-for-5 performance at the plate. She scored three runs, one double and four RBIs. Liz Lebria contributed three RBIs and one run and was 2-for-5 at bat.

Ur Balls 15, SaiPal 9

In the lone men's game, Ur Balls topped SaiPal to get its eighth win in 12 matches. SaiPal fell to a 6-7 mark.

An eight-run top of the first gave Ur Balls enough cushion and it preserved the lead and the win after holding SaiPal to only two runs in the last three innings.

Marvin Kaipat led Ur Balls' good start with a solo homer, followed by Juan Maratita's two-run homer and another solo home run from Byron Kaipat. Ur Balls scored four more runs off three errors and one earned run and added three more in the second, while SaiPal failed to score in the first two innings.

SaiPal then broke its silence in the third and then played even better in the fourth with its six runs, led by Gloyd Martin's two-run single, to move within four, 7-11. However, SaiPal went cold again in the next two innings, while Ur Balls notched four runs in the sixth inning after going scoreless from the third to fifth inning. Byron Kaipat brought Ur Balls back to life with his two-run double, while Maratita had a one-run single, and the other run was scored off an error.

Down by eight going into the final inning, 7-15, Jordan Hayes led off for SaiPal and doubled, however second and third batters Eli Ilo and Leo Bobai flied out and was tagged out at first, respectively. Kuich Damien kept SaiPal's hopes alive with a two-run homer before Ur Balls finally secured the win with Maratita picking up the ball and throwing to first baseman Byron Kaipat, who tagged out Alonso Besong.

Meanwhile, Gagu Eyez and Familia were scheduled to play in the other men's division game last Monday, but the latter had a no-show, awarding the former its 10th win in 12 games. Familia dropped to a 4-9 card.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	48	32	.600	–
Baltimore	43	37	.538	5
Tampa Bay	43	38	.531	5 1/2
Boston	42	39	.519	6 1/2
Toronto	41	40	.506	7 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	43	37	.538	–
Cleveland	41	39	.513	2
Detroit	39	42	.481	4 1/2
Kansas City	36	43	.456	6 1/2
Minnesota	35	45	.438	8

West Division

Texas	50	31	.617	–
Los Angeles	45	36	.556	5
Oakland	40	42	.488	10 1/2
Seattle	35	48	.422	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	46	32	.590	–
New York	44	37	.543	3 1/2
Atlanta	42	38	.525	5
Miami	38	42	.475	9
Philadelphia	36	46	.439	12

Central Division

Cincinnati	44	36	.550	–
Pittsburgh	44	36	.550	–
St. Louis	42	39	.519	2 1/2
Milwaukee	38	42	.475	6
Houston	32	49	.395	12 1/2
Chicago	30	50	.375	14

West Division

San Francisco	45	36	.556	–
Los Angeles	45	37	.549	1/2
Arizona	39	41	.488	5 1/2
San Diego	32	50	.390	13 1/2
Colorado	31	49	.388	13 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SSS Futsal League Standings (June 30)

U18 Boys

	W	D	L
Astig	2	0	0
IT&E	2	0	0
Thundercats	1	0	2
Mean Machine	0	0	3

U14 Boys

IT&E	0	2	0
Astig	0	2	0

Women's

Shirley's	3	0	1
Wild Bill's	2	2	0
Xerox	2	1	1
Baked Girls	2	1	1
IT&E Awesome	1	0	3
Mellow Yellow	0	0	4

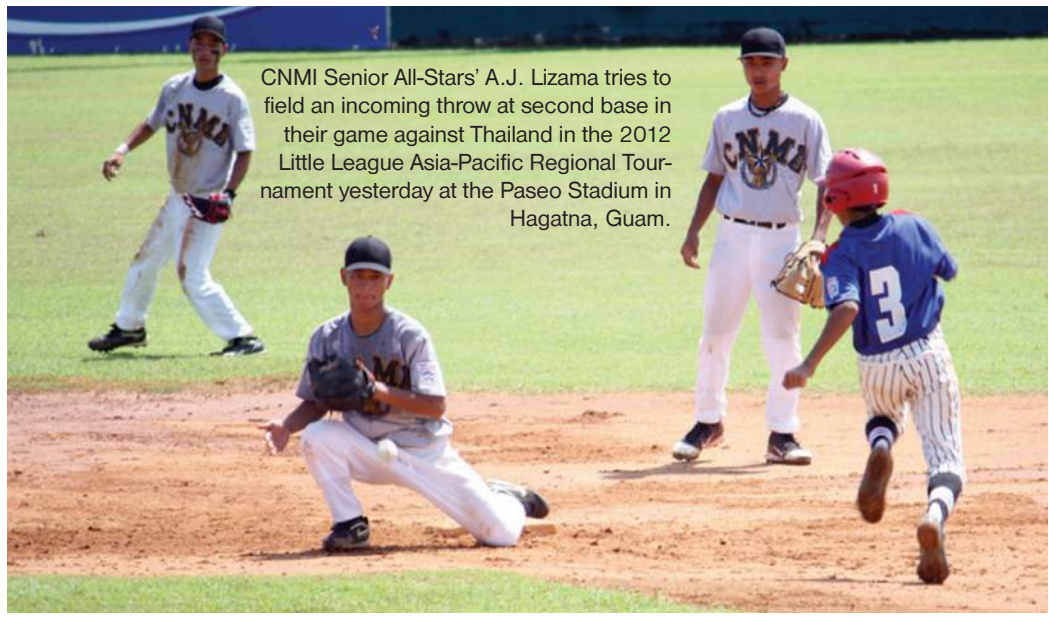
Men's

Wild Bill's	4	0	0
Godfather's	2	0	1
Shirley's	1	0	1
IT&E	0	0	2
Go Green	0	0	3

2012 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Frankie Camacho gets called out at the plate by the umpire.



CNMI Senior All-Stars' A.J. Lizama tries to field an incoming throw at second base in their game against Thailand in the 2012 Little League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament yesterday at the Paseo Stadium in Hagatna, Guam.

The CNMI Senior All-Stars wave at the camera from the dugout in the late innings of their game against Thailand.

CNMI Senior All-Stars' Austin Piteg gets a lead off at first base in their game against Thailand.

CNMI Senior All-Stars closer Jeffrey Lizama fires home a pitch against Thailand.

CNMI Senior All-Stars' Davie Matagolai takes a cleat to the face as he dives back to first base.

Far left, CNMI Senior All-Stars' Henry Rabauliman throws out a runner after a dropped third strike.

Center left, CNMI Senior All-Stars' Lancaster Secharmidal hustles out of the batter's box after laying down a perfect bunt to the left side of the pitcher's mound.

Left, CNMI Senior All-Stars' Ray Saralu chucks the ball over to first from third base.

Deron Williams takes Nets' $98 million deal

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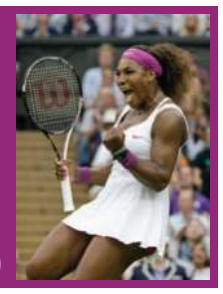
Saipan Tribune
Sports

Serena beats defending champion at Wimbledon



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CNMI shuts out Thailand in opener

CNMI Senior All-Stars' Ray Saralu torques back for a big swing against Thailand in their 2012 Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament game yesterday at Guam's Paseo Stadium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HAGATNA, Guam—The CNMI Senior All-Stars opened yesterday's 2012 Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament with 15-0 skunking of an obviously overmatched Thailand team in five innings at the Paseo Stadium in Hagatna, Guam.

Other results included Guam thrashing China, 29-0; while New Zealand was leading Indonesia, 10-0, in the bottom of the second inning.

The Senior League division also includes the Philippines, which was on a bye yesterday. The CNMI is scheduled to play Indonesia today at 11:45am.

After going three up and three down to start the game, the CNMI catapulted in front, 11-0, as they batted around the lineup two times in the second inning.

T.J. Sablan loaded the bases off an error at third base after Khobby Kaipat drew a leadoff walk to start the frame and Ray Saralu reached on a bean ball.

Davin Ada then roped a one-hopper down the left side that broke the ice for two runs; the hit was ruled an error, but

See CNMI on Page 26

Sakudi gains share of lead in women's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sakudi outclassed Check-It-Out, 12-8, to force a tie for first place in the women's division of the 2012 Chamolinian Softball Association's Budweiser Slow-pitch League.

Sakudi shut out Check-It-Out in the last inning of their game last Monday at the Capital Hill Ballfield, to improve to an 8-3 record, the same mark the latter holds.

Check-It-Out threatened Sakudi at the bottom of the sixth inning, scoring seven runs and slicing the latter's lead to one, 8-9. Sakudi had earlier shut out Check-It-Out in four of the first five innings of their game for a 5-1 advantage and stretched it to eight after a four-run top of the sixth.

Then after Check-It-Out's sixth-inning rally, Sakudi created more distance, 12-8, making three more runs at the top of the last off Bertha Camacho's two-run single and Jul Jean's one-run single.

At the bottom of the last innning, Check-It-Out must nail at least four runs to extend the game, but scored none, as the first batter was out at first and the second tagged out at third. Jo-

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Sweep for Wild Bill's; Shirley's win, again

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Wild Bill's swept the first round of the men's division of the 2012 SSS Summer Futsal League after edging Godfather's, 8-6, last Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Jack Thoensaket, who had five goals in their 15-0 spanking of Go Green last week, picked up where he

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Ira Palero, seen here battling a Baked Girls player for possession, scored two goals in their 6-2 win over IT&E Awesome in the women's futsal league last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

DYS, MDX advance to semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DYS/Bayani and MDX/Mariana Resort moved a win away from entering the finals of the U20 division of the 2012 UFO Docomo Pacific Cup after prevailing in separate playoff matches last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DYS/Bayani defeated SIP/Bayani in the first game, 93-85, while MDX/Mariana Resort routed Hi-Five/POWER in the second match, 62-45. DYS/Bayani will next face AON/Boholano on July 10 at 6:30pm with the winner advancing to the finals first, while MDX/Mariana Resort will duel the victor of the Hi-Five/POWER and SIP/Barney's tiff, also on Tuesday, for the second finals berth.

MDX/Mariana Resort coasted to an easy win and boosted its finals bid after controlling the game late in the second quarter.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MDX/Mariana Resort's Ian Benavente, center, is double-teamed by Hi-Five/POWER's Eric Atalig, left, and Leo Cristobal during the second quarter of their playoff game in the U20 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.